

Tobi's Down and Dirty Notes for the Book Mapping Workshop

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Find the internal and external arcs pdf at: shorturl.at/fhtJS

These are just the questions you want to ask for every scene/chapter.

Structure and Pacing:

- ▶ Use the internal/external arc pdf to help, or the plot structure you love best, like Gwen Hayes or Heroine's Journey.
- ▶ Make a note where are the pinch points (antagonist doing something) and the plot points (protagonist doing something).
- ▶ Do the math... word count to that scene divided by total word count to find how far you are into the story. Are you close to where you should be?

Plot and Subplot Review Questions:

- ▶ Does the chapter move the plot or subplot forward? Sometimes the chapter is about the internal goals and therefore character development may occur, and a decision is made that moves the plot forward, but more words are on the character development.
- ▶ What is the goal of the scene?
- ▶ Does the goal/motivation/conflict feel contrived?
- ▶ Is the GMC genre appropriate?
- ▶ What is the main conflict of the chapter? Is it believable? Can it be "upped" to increase tension?
- ▶ Is the goal achieved or thwarted? Is there a reaction and new plan?
- ▶ MOTIVATION!!! Is the motivation believable and reasonable?
- ▶ Does the character's actions and reactions fit the situation?
- ▶ Does the character's actions fit "who" they are?
- ▶ Does the chapter start with action or reflection? (Make a note and try to mix them up.)
- ▶ Does the ending make you want to read more?
- ▶ Are there any inconsistencies (names, eye color, settings, clues, etc.)?

Character Development Questions:

- ▶ Do ALL the characters really need to be there?
- ▶ Note: Some scenes move the main storyline forward and some scenes are mostly about the character development. Think internal versus external goals. What type of scene is this?
- ▶ Does this scene make the character question their misbeliefs (wounds) or does it reinforce their misbelief?
 - ▶ Ex) They believe they are unlovable-does this scene prove or disprove that belief
- ▶ Does this scene complicate the internal GMC? If yes, what new plan is made?

- ▶ Compare pinch/plot points to internal character arc, should you adjust some scene for pacing?
- ▶ Character interactions – make a note of interactions
- ▶ this is for your benefit – you may find that a character isn't needed or can be combined with another
- ▶ Note if any of the characterizations, descriptions, or dialogue is clichéd. This is for the NEXT draft.
- ▶ Finally, a note on diversity, equality, and inclusion...
- ▶ Do you have any diverse characters in your book? If no, is that a believable setting for your story?
- ▶ If yes, are your characters stories/backstories stereotypical? This could be problematic.
- ▶ Are the marginalized characters victims or villains? This could be problematic.

Setting Questions:

- ▶ Does your setting add to the tone and mood of the story?
- ▶ Are there any motifs or images in this setting that add to the theme of the story? Could or should you add some? (DON'T OVER DO IT! SPRINKLE, DON'T DROWN)
- ▶ Time...If you've moved from one setting to the next, is there enough time in the story for it to reasonably occur? (Timeline consistency)

Theme, Symbols, Motifs, Imagery Questions:

- ▶ Is your theme genre-appropriate?
 - ▶ Ex) People can't be trusted isn't appropriate for romance.
- ▶ The theme should be sprinkled throughout the book, appearing often at pinch points. Do you have a theme? Is it proven or disproven in this scene?