

Basic story questions

- Title:
- Whose story is this?
- Who has the main POV? Or does it switch off?
- What does the protagonist want?
- What is at stake?
- How are the stakes being raised?
- Is there a ticking time bomb? What is it?
- What are the complications?
- What are the options?
- How are the options eliminated one by one?
- Who is the worthy opponent?
- What do they want?
- How does this conflict with what the protagonist wants?
- What is the through-line (i.e. answer to question of what happened to the main character)?
- What is the climax?
- What is the over-riding theme?

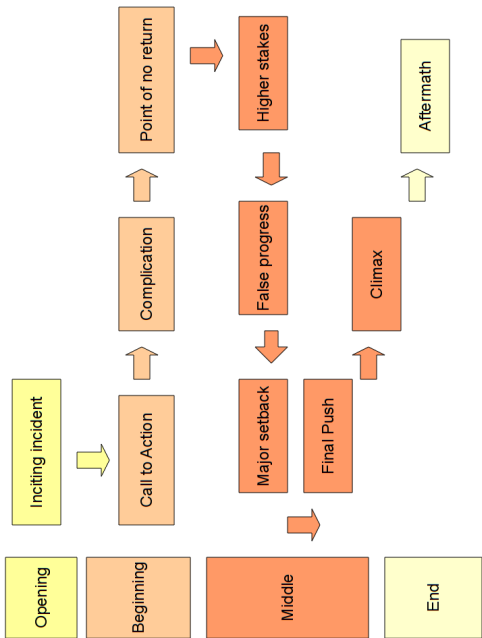
From K. Kitts <http://www.kkitts.net>

Scene Plotting Worksheet

- Book Title:
- Chapter Title:
- Scene #:
- “What if” Statement:
- Paragraph Summary:
- Location:
- Description:
- Characters Present:
- Timeline:
- Scene Goal(s):
- Starting Point:
- Ending Point:
- Events in the scene
 - Action/reaction
 - Conflict/decision
 - Stumbling block/complication
 - Advance on ticking time bomb
- How does the scene advance the plot?
- Where does it lead?

From K. Kitts <http://www.kkitts.net>

Ten Scene Plotting Tool



From K. Kitts <http://www.kkitts.net>

Kate Mosse

“To write! Five minutes of writing a day is better than no minutes. Too many new writers think that unless they have plenty of time, it’s not worth booting up the computer or sharpening that pencil. But think of it, instead, like practising scales on the piano before tackling that Beethoven Concerto or like warming-up in the gym – the more you prepare for writing, the better shape you’ll be in once you have time to really concentrate.”

Justine Picardie

“Write about the thing that really obsesses you — you need to feel possessed to get through the long, hard journey of writing a book. And don’t give up when it gets hard in the middle. The middle always feels impossible, as if you’ll never finish.”

Iain Rankin

“Have have faith in your abilities, and the confidence that you have a story worth telling. But be open to advice and criticism.”