



NANOWRIMO 2014

Writing a novel can be thought of as a stone soup exercise, where your initial idea is like the stone in the stone soup story—a catalyst that, combined with the right ingredients, produces a delicious soup (your novel).

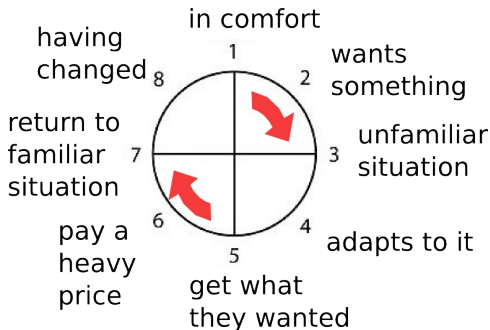


USA::Illinois::Naperville
naperwrimo.org
nanowrimo.org

Library Crawl: naperwrimo.org/crawl
*Collect all of your
ingredients!*

Events: naperwrimo.org/events

Dan Harmon's character arc in a story

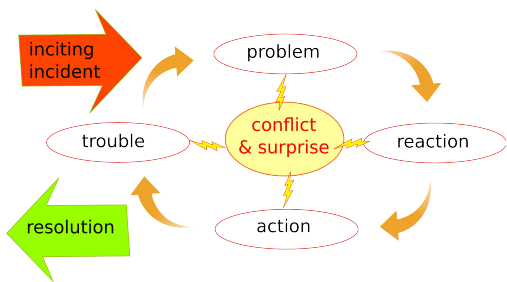


7 MAGNIFICENT PLOT PTS

- **back story** - what haunts the main character
- **catalyst** - what gets the character moving
- **big event** - changes the character's life
- **midpoint** - point of no return
- **crisis** - low point forcing a key decision
- **climax** - final showdown
- **realization** - character has changed

7 POINT PLOT STRUCTURE

- **Hook:** initial state of the main character
- **Plot turn I:** call to adventure
- **Pinch I:** apply pressure
- **Midpoint:** character(s) move the reaction to action
- **Plot turn II:** something horrible happens
- **Pinch II:** the plan fails
- **Resolution:** satisfying ending (final state for the MC)



When writing your novel...

- Trickle in the information
- Plant weeds between the rows (subplots)
- The most important questions are "what else?" and "why?"
- Keep sentences short in high action scenes

Advice for writers:

- read books by others
- write every day
- read what you write



Individuality

- do what works for you
- every novel is different
- every novelist is different

“If something isn't working, if you have a story that you've built and it's blocked and you can't figure it out, take your favorite scene, or your very best idea or set piece, and cut it. It's brutal, but sometimes inevitable.”

– Joss Whedon



“You don't write because you want to say something. You write because you have something to say.”

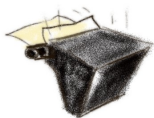
– F. Scott Fitzgerald

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.” – Maya Angelou

“No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise for the writer, no surprise for the reader.” – Robert Frost

“The first sentence can't be written until the final sentence is written.” – Joyce Carol Oates

“If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it.” – Toni Morrison



“If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster.” – Isaac Asimov

“The best time for planning a book is while you're doing the dishes.” – Agatha Christie

“We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect.” – Anaïs Nin



“This is how you do it: you sit down at the keyboard and you put one word after another until it's done. It's that easy, and that hard.” – Neil Gaiman

“If you want to be a writer, you have to write every day... You don't go to a well once but daily.” – Walter Mosley

“A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.” – Thomas Mann

“I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.” – Anne Frank

“The best fantasy is written in the language of dreams. It is alive as dreams are alive, more real than real ... for a moment at least ... that long magic moment before we wake.” – George R. R. Martin

“The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say” – Anaïs Nin

“There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.”
~Ernest Hemingway

“You get ideas from daydreaming. You get ideas from being bored. You get ideas all the time. The only difference between writers and other people is we notice when we’re doing it.” ~ Neil Gaiman



“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things about all others: read a lot and write a lot...reading is the creative center of a writer’s life...you cannot hope to sweep someone else away by the force of your writing until it has been done to you.” ~Stephen King

“A professional writer is an amateur who didn’t quit.” ~Richard Bach

“The desire to write grows with writing.” ~Desiderius Erasmus



“The great advantage of being a writer is that you can spy on people. You’re there, listening to every word, but part of you is observing. Everything is useful to a writer, you see—every scrap, even the longest and most boring of luncheon parties.” ~Graham Greene

“I try to create sympathy for my characters, then turn the monsters loose.” – Stephen King

“It’s none of their business that you have to learn to write. Let them think you were born that way.”

- Ernest Hemingway

“It is perfectly okay to write garbage—as long as you edit brilliantly.”

- C. J. Cherryh

“First, find out what your hero wants, then just follow him!”

- Ray Bradbury

“A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.
I say it just begins
to live that day.”

- Emily Dickinson



“You learn by writing short stories.
Keep writing short stories. The
money’s in novels, but writing short
stories keeps your writing lean and
pointed.”

- Larry Niven

“Great is the art of beginning, but
greater is the art of ending.”

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Everybody walks past a thousand
story ideas every day. The good
writers are the ones who see five or
six of them. Most people don’t see
any.” – Orson Scott Card

“Exercise the writing muscle every day, even if it is only a letter, notes, a title list, a character sketch, a journal entry. Writers are like dancers, like athletes. Without that exercise, the muscles seize up.”

- Jane Yolen

“Finishing a book is just like you took a child out in the back yard and shot it.”

- Truman Capote

“Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.” – Anton Chekhov

“You can’t wait for inspiration, you have to go after it with a club.” – Jack London

“You can fix anything but a blank page.” – Nora Roberts

HOW TO USE YOUR NOVEL STONE

Just as a soup stone can help you achieve a rich, hearty soup, your Novel Stone can help you ease your way to creating a deep, meaningful novel. You just need to finagle the following ingredients: idea, story, plot, genre, narrative, characters, setting, themes and then finish it off with an effective ending. Here are some other uses for your stone:

- Polish your stone until it gleams (the better to catch the eyes of passers by).
- Practice tossing and catching your stone the way that Gene Kelly tossed a coin in the dream montage in *Singing in the Rain*.
- Get in a staring contest with your stone; whoever blinks first has to write 500 words.

Novel Stone instructions continued

- Use your stone as a paper weight as you draw a mindmap of your novel.
- Keep the stone handy as you come up with a terrifyingly scary plot.
- Imagine how each character would react if someone came up to them and gave them the stone.
- Place the stone in each unique setting of your novel; ensure that this addition doesn't result in the settings being similar to each other.
- Introduce your stone to that of another NaNo participant (interactions help creativity)
- Grok the finality of your stone and apply that sense of realism to your novel ending.

RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

- use a comfortable desk & keyboard
- talk about your story
- take breaks
- write every day
- experiment and take risks
- draw a map
- listen to music or white noise
- try to come into your novel as late into the story as possible
- save the back story for author notes if you don't need to explain it all!
- most importantly: Have fun!



Take Care: Novelist at Work
Bystanders might be written into story



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