

Short Story & Novel Outlining Worksheet

BLANK TEMPLATE

STORY BASICS

Working Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Target Word Count: _____

PREMISE

What's the big idea? Summarize your story concept in 1-3 sentences:

Story Hook: *What makes this story compelling and unique?*

Central Theme: *What is the underlying message or question your story explores?*

MAIN CHARACTER(S)

Who are they? Include their goals, motivations, and key traits:

Protagonist:

- Name: _____
- Age/Background: _____
- External Goal: _____
- Internal Need: _____
- Key Traits: _____
- Fatal Flaw: _____

Supporting Character 1:

- Name: _____
- Relationship to Protagonist: _____
- Purpose in Story: _____
- Key Traits: _____

Supporting Character 2:

- Name: _____
- Relationship to Protagonist: _____
- Purpose in Story: _____
- Key Traits: _____

Antagonist/Opposition:

- Name/Form: _____
 - Motivation: _____
 - Conflict with Protagonist: _____
 - Key Traits: _____
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CONFLICT & STAKES

What's at risk? What stands in your character's way?

External Conflict: *The physical/tangible problems your character faces*

Internal Conflict: *The emotional/psychological struggles within your character*

Stakes: *What happens if your character fails?*

- Personal Stakes: _____
- Relationship Stakes: _____
- Bigger Picture Stakes: _____

Ticking Clock: *Is there a time pressure? What creates urgency?*

SCENE BREAKDOWN

List 10 key scenes that will form the backbone of your story:

1. Opening Scene:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

2. Inciting Incident:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

3. First Major Obstacle:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

4. Character Development Moment:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

5. Midpoint Twist/Revelation:

- Setting: _____

- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

6. Rising Complications:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

7. Low Point/Crisis:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

8. Character's Decision/New Plan:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

9. Climactic Confrontation:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

10. Resolution/New Normal:

- Setting: _____
- Action: _____
- Purpose: _____

ENDING OPTIONS

Possible resolutions for your story. Consider multiple options before deciding:

Option 1:

Option 2:

Option 3:

Chosen Ending & Why:

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Use this space for any other story elements, research needed, or ideas:

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