Novel Title

1. Title or Working Title:

2. Title Meaning/Source:

Conflict

What is the main complication of the story (the central problem that must be solved by the main character)?

What are the primary obstacles preventing the main character from achieving his or her goal?

How is the story resolved for the main characters (how does it end)?

Setting

Main location(s) where the story takes place:

Population:

Climate/Season at time of story:

Landscape:

Crime:

Other significant details about location(s):

Suggested Tasks:

1. Get or draw a map of story location(s).

2. Map out buildings and travel routes involved in story.

3. Collect or invent interesting anecdotes about location(s).

3. Visit setting if possible and photograph areas that are involved in the story.

Individual Character Worksheet

Name:

Role In Novel:

Primary Goal:
Most notable personality trait(s):

Achilles heel:

Biggest strength:

Physical Description:

Hair Color/Style:

Eye Color/Shape:

Skin Color/Texture:

Notable Facial Features:

Body Type:

Gestures/Habits:

Outward demeanor:

Place of birth:

Age:

Closest confidante:

Significant Family Members:

Occupation:

Hobbies/Collects:

Describe home:

Favorite Place:

Vehicle:

Dog/Cat:

Favorite food:

Wardrobe/Personal Style (Clothing, shoes, jewelry, accessories, etc.)

Personal History:

The “line test”: You can tell a lot about someone by how they react to being forced to wait in line at Walmart for a long time. How does this character react to that eventuality?

Psychology of the Bad Guy

List any known psychopatholoy for the antagonist:

What sort of criminal is the antagonist (i.e. serial killer, rapist, arsonist, etc.)?

What is the initial motivation for the antagonist’s actions?

What changes his motivation/makes him/her escalate?

What maintains the escalated behavior?

How far is the antagonist willing to go in pursuit of his/her goals?

What is his/her downfall, the thing that allows him/her to get caught/killed?

Characters

All character names from the novel in alphabetical order:

Suggested Task: Check and change character names to eliminate sound-alikes, alliteration, any that are inappropriate for time period, and any that are inconsistent with the names for the rest of the cast.

Plotting the Romance

What does the hero need that only the heroine can provide and why?

What does the heroine need that only the hero can provide and why?

What is the main conflict between the h/h?

What in the hero’s past pertains to his ability to form relationships?

What in the heroine’s past pertains to her ability to form relationships?

Do the h/h have any shared history?

What is the Black Moment in the story?

How is the conflict that arises from the Black Moment resolved?

20 Reasons Why the H/H Are Well Suited

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20 Reasons Why the H/H Aren’t Getting Busy or Married Immediately

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Novel Timeline

Chronological list of the story events: