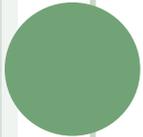


“NOVELING” PREP

Extreme Brainstorming Day



NANOWRIMO INFO

- November is National Novel Writing Month.
- Goal: Write a novel in a month.
- Set a word count goal. Try to meet it by the end of the month.
- Takes willingness and commitment.
 - Not about writing a perfect novel in a month.



- “Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work.”
— Stephen King



BRAINSTORMING IDEAS:

- First, write down any ideas for stories that you think would be fun. Be as specific as you like here. Full paragraphs or a list. Whatever. Even fragments of stories count.
 - Plots/Events
 - Characters
 - Situations
 - Dialogue
 - Subjects
 - Worlds/Settings/Mythology/History
 - Conflicts/Problems
 - Anything in your Writing Territories?



ADD TO THIS LIST

- Continue to brainstorm different elements that could be worked into a novel. Consider the following:
 - Conversations you've overheard or situations you've witnessed.
 - Events in history that you find interesting.
 - Events from your life or from others' lives.
 - Lines from songs that stand out to you.
 - Hobbies/Passions/Interests that you know lots about.
- 

FIND “TIPS FOR WRITING A NOVEL: SO YOU’VE GOT AN IDEA—WHAT NOW?”

- Put stars next to your favorite ideas on your brainstorm sheet.
- Using your brainstorm as inspiration, try out some of the tips the article lists.
 - Start with a character
 - Start with a problem
 - Start with a setting
 - Start with a concept
- It would be best, even if you already are sure of what you’ll write about, if you try a TWO of these different strategies. You never know if it will help you out in the story you end up writing... 

- Create “what if” statements for anything you’ve documented so far.



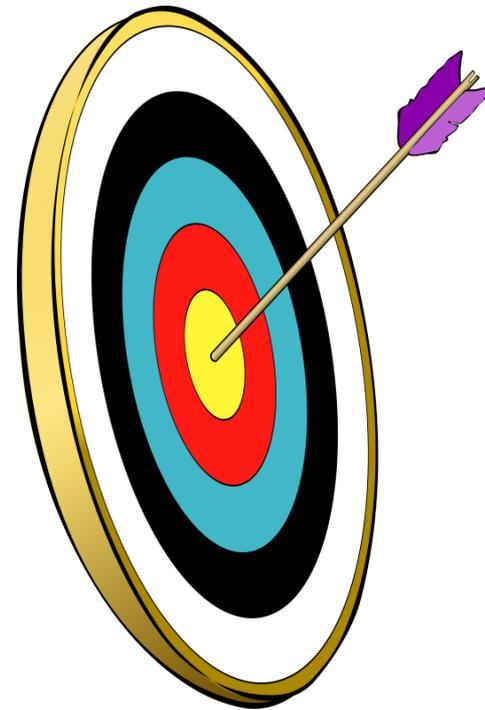
AT THIS POINT, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT CONCEPTS FOR STORIES. PICK YOUR TOP TWO.

- Do a quickwrite. Write down everything that you can about both these stories.
 - Characters (main, antagonists, power players)?
 - **How will it begin/end? (these ones are important)**
 - Setting (time and place)?
 - Conflict/Problem?
 - Genre?
 - Point-of-View?
 - Scenes/Moments from the story?
 - Is there a message you want readers to get out of the book? What is it?



MOMENT OF TRUTH:

- Pick which of the final two story options you want to shoot for in November.



SHARE WITH YOUR TABLE-MATES

- Take turns reading your quickwrite.
 - Take time after each entry to:
 - say one thing you think was interesting about one of the story ideas.
 - offer one suggestion of what you think might help that story out (maybe an event, a character, a situation).
 - Then move on to the next person's story.



CREATE A “ROUGH” TIMELINE FOR YOUR STORY

- You need an ending.
- You need a beginning.
- You need three big events in between
 - Something that might be helpful is to create plot pitch following the same basic steps you did for the children’s book.



FINAL BRAINSTORM: WAYS TO START THE STORY

- Character: description of your main character(s) and his or her normal life
- Motivation: setting up what your character wants and the conflict of the story
- Change: clear of what character is like at the beginning so that the character has clearly changed by the end
- World: describe the setting/world
- Inciting Incident: start at the moment that sets the journey on motion.
- In medias res: start in the middle of the action (background is filled in throughout the rest)
- Flashback or flashforward: Then you can start with a key scene rather than “ordinary stuff” This helps with foreshadowing
- Start at the end: Reveal the ending and then either work backward or jump back to the beginning and build up to it.



- Noyce's examples
- Now your turn.
 - Brainstorm at least two of the ways you could start your story. Work in as many different ideas as possible so you've got a target for today's writing.



YOUR INNER EDITOR

- What does your inner editor do? Look like?
- When you come in to write your novel, you need to turn your inner editor off so that you can focus on getting your novel done.
- Draw a button on your writer's notebook so that you can smack it before you start writing.

