



Plot in 60 Minutes

Summary

Everyone has a story in them. But, not everyone has time to find that story. Not everyone has motivation to write that story. Not everyone is brave enough to write that story.

As writers, we have the motivation. As writers, we find the time. As writers, we are brave enough to put down our ideas onto paper.

Yes, we all need help and resources sometimes. Time is still precious and hard to come by. Motivation is still fleeting and tricky to pin down for long periods of time. Bravery can waver when we look at all the other activities and obligations in our lives.

That's where this work-packet is meant to come in handy. With 10 pages worth of prompts, this micro-workshop is meant to provide the basic foundational story bits for writing a novel-length plot.

By just investing 60 minutes of your time, you'll compile a bare bones story bible to better understand your characters, your story arc, and the plot threads weaving everything together.

Below is a breakdown of how long each segment should take you to compile initially. You can take longer if necessary, but the goal is to push a micro-deadline on you to encourage writing your ideas down first and polishing them later. Try to stick to the schedule in your first run, and add more later if you desire.

Character Foundations	Pages 1-3	—————	10 Minutes
Story Questions	Page 4	—————	15 Minutes
Opposable Plot Points	Page 5	—————	
Expanding Your Plot	Pages 6-8	—————	20 Minutes
The Grand Finale	Page 9	—————	10 Minutes
The Road Goes Ever On	Page 10	—————	5 Minutes



Plot in 60 Minutes

Characters 101 – 1 of 3

Who are your primary two characters? Traditionally, this is your protagonist and antagonist, but you can adapt this page as necessary. If you have more of a group of characters, who's leading the group or has more of a spotlight than the others?

Spend ten minutes on pages 1-3 organizing your primary, secondary, and tertiary characters.

Primary Protagonist(s) / Main Character(s)

Name(s): _____

Genders(s): _____ Age(s): _____

Race(s) / Family background(s): _____

Character / Personality quirk(s): _____

Other Notes: _____

Primary Antagonist(s) / Main Villain(s)

Name(s): _____

Genders(s): _____ Age(s): _____

Race(s) / Family background(s): _____

Character / Personality quirk(s): _____

Other Notes: _____



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Characters 101 – 2 of 3

Who are your secondary two characters? You can adapt this page as necessary. If you have more of a group of characters, who's leading the group or has more of a spotlight than the others?

Spend ten minutes on pages 1-3 organizing your primary, secondary, and tertiary characters.

Secondary Protagonist(s) / Supporting Character(s)

Name(s): _____

Genders(s): _____ Age(s): _____

Race(s) / Family background(s): _____

Character / Personality quirk(s): _____

Other Notes: _____

Secondary Antagonist(s) / Supporting Villain(s)

Name(s): _____

Genders(s): _____ Age(s): _____

Race(s) / Family background(s): _____

Character / Personality quirk(s): _____

Other Notes: _____



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Characters 101 – 3 of 3

Who are your tertiary characters? You can adapt this page as necessary. If you have more of a group of characters, who's leading the group or has more of a spotlight than the others?

Spend ten minutes on pages 1-3 organizing your primary, secondary, and tertiary characters.

Tertiary Protagonist(s) / Extra Character(s)

Name(s): _____

Genders(s): _____ Age(s): _____

Race(s) / Family background(s): _____

Character / Personality quirk(s): _____

Other Notes: _____

Tertiary Antagonist(s) / Extra Villain(s)

Name(s): _____

Genders(s): _____ Age(s): _____

Race(s) / Family background(s): _____

Character / Personality quirk(s): _____

Other Notes: _____



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Story Questions

What is your “In the beginning...” starting point in your story? Every story has an event that may not make it into the book, but as the author, you’ll need to have this to know why your characters act out the plot you’ve set for them.

Spend fifteen minutes on pages 4-5 figuring out what kicks your characters into action.

What is your inciting incident? What sets off your plot?

What does your primary protagonist(s) want or need? What drives them forward through the plot?

How will your primary protagonist(s) obtain, find, or otherwise receive what he / she / they want or need?

What are the stakes involved with what’s wanted or needed?



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Opposable Plot Points

Just as your main character(s) have a starting point, so do your villain(s). It's best to know how both sides react to the inciding incident.

Spend fifteen minutes on pages 4-5 figuring out what kicks your characters into action.

What does you primary antagonist(s) want or need? What drives them forward through the plot?

How does your antagonist(s) obstruct or hinder what's wanted or needed from being obtained?

Why is your antagonist(s) going against your main character(s)?

Are there oppositions or complications your protagonist(s) encounter that aren't a result of your antagonis(s)? (e.g. natural forces, sheer bad luck, etc.)



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Expand Your Plot – 1 of 3

There's more to a story to, "Once upon a time..." and "The end." Here's your chance to work on just what really impactful plot points are going to occur in your story.

Spend twenty minutes on pages 6-8 figuring out three major milestones in your story's plot.

What is the primary challenge for this plot point?

What is at stake for your protagonist(s)? What will your protagonist(s) do?

What is at stake for your antagonist(s)? What will your antagonist(s) do?

Is there a resolution of any sort? What're the consequences or results of this plot point?



Plot in 60 Minutes

Expand Your Plot – 2 of 3

There's more to a story to, "Once upon a time..." and "The end." Here's your chance to work on just what really impactful plot points are going to occur in your story.

Spend twenty minutes on pages 6-8 figuring out three major milestones in your story's plot.

What is the primary challenge for this plot point?

What is at stake for your protagonist(s)? What will your protagonist(s) do?

What is at stake for your antagonist(s)? What will your antagonist(s) do?

Is there a resolution of any sort? What're the consequences or results of this plot point?



Plot in 60 Minutes

Expand Your Plot – 3 of 3

There's more to a story to, "Once upon a time..." and "The end." Here's your chance to work on just what really impactful plot points are going to occur in your story.

Spend twenty minutes on pages 6-8 figuring out three major milestones in your story's plot.

What is the primary challenge for this plot point?

What is at stake for your protagonist(s)? What will your protagonist(s) do?

What is at stake for your antagonist(s)? What will your antagonist(s) do?

Is there a resolution of any sort? What're the consequences or results of this plot point?



Plot in 60 Minutes

The Grande Finale

It's time for the climax and resolution. Now's the opportunity for your protagonist(s) to succeed or fail in the overarching plot of your story.

Spend ten minutes on pages 9 figuring out just who's going to get what they want or need before you hit "The End."

What is the primary challenge for the climax?

What is at stake for your protagonist(s)? What is your protagonist(s) end game strategy?

What is at stake for your antagonist(s)? What is your antagonist(s) end game strategy?

What is the resolution of the climax? What's the fallout or damage done to characters?



Plot in 60 Minutes

The Road Goes Ever On

Now's the chance for you to take a step back and look at just how far your characters have come since page 1 of your plot. How have they grown, changed, or otherwise been effected by your story's plot after the climax and resolution have occurred?

Take only five minutes to figure out just what happens to your characters once we hit "The End."

How have your protagonist(s) grown or evolved since the beginning to now?

How have your antagonist(s) grown or evolved since the beginning to now?

Are there any loose ends left over that need to be addressed in a sequel?
