

## **STORY IDEA/STORY OUTLINE**

### **SUGGESTED THEMES:**

You -- your secrets; dreams; concerns, fears; fantasies.

A funny and/or dramatic story that has happened to you, your friend(s) or relative(s).

1.     **PREMISE** -- one sentence  
a thumbnail synopsis of your story: who (character)--doing what (conflict)--results of the action (resolution)
2.     **SETTING** -- two sentences  
the world of the story: (1) time (when?); (2) place (where? geographical & social setting)
3.     **MAIN CHARACTERS** -- five sentences  
Protagonist & Antagonist  
sociology     (social class, profession, race, ethnicity, nationality, etc.)  
psychology    (personality & idiosyncrasies)  
physiology    (age, gender, look, health, etc.)  
Their **DRAMATIC NEEDS** (what does each of them want?)
4.     **MAIN CONFLICT** -- one sentence  
conflict -- a clash of two forces, values, desires, needs, goals, etc.  
types of conflicts: (1) internal (protagonist with himself); (2a) external/personal (with another person);  
(2b) external/extra-personal (with society and the environment -- the Forces of Antagonism)
5.     **CENTRAL QUESTION** -- one sentence  
(what's going to happen to the protagonist? is he going to get what he wants? succeed or fail?)
6.     **STORY LINE** -- ten sentences  
(what happens? action event by event; each event contains conflict)

**SCENE ONE**            --       exposition: WHO? WHERE? WHEN? and WHAT?

**INCITING INCIDENT** --(should happen as early as possible)

It throws the life of the protagonist out of balance,  
establishes his or her dramatic need (what does he want?)  
introduces conflict (who and what is he/she up against?)  
poses the central question (is he going to succeed or fail?)

**PLOT POINT I**        -- crossing the point of no return (also could function as inciting incident); a major change in the direction of the story; the beginning of the main body of the story.

PROGRESSIVE  
COMPLICATIONS

-- a series of confrontations; the protagonist undertakes actions to fulfill his dramatic need and encounters reactions (counter-actions) on the part of the antagonist; the conflict between the two escalates!

PLOT POINT II

-- the beginning of the end of the story (resolution) -- a second major change in the direction of the story; crossing the point of no return;

CLIMAX

-- final confrontation between the protagonist and the antagonist (or the forces of antagonism); answers the central question (does he get what he wanted? win? or lose?); concludes the story;

LAST SCENE

-- ties up loose ends; "slow curtain"