

The Telescopic Story Method

Logline

*Tell the story in one sentence. This will usually start with “When...”
Use the questions below to guide you.*



Protagonist

Who is the protagonist?

Describe them with one detail:

Name an object connected to the protagonist:

Describe the object with one detail:

What is the relationship between the object and the protagonist:

Goal

What does the protagonist want?

Why do they want it?

Name an object connected to the goal?

Describe the object with one detail:

What is the relationship between the object and the goal?

Conflict

What are the stakes, the cost, the sacrifices?

What is sacrificed?

Who pays?

Blurb

Tell the story in one paragraph. Expand the logline by adding: more character description, genre clues, backstory, allies, villains, obstacles, and setting.

Synopsis

Tell the story in 500-1000 words. Work clause by clause expanding each portion into one to five sentences.

Clause 1:

Clause 2:

Clause 3:

Clause 4:

Clause 5:

Clause 6:

Raise the stakes. The protagonist takes action. This results in a consequence. They react to the consequence. This results in another consequence. They react to this consequence. This results in a third consequence. This final consequence should force them into taking the final actions that will complete or resolve the plot and story arcs.

Escalation 1:

Escalation 2:

Escalation 3:

Climax:

Plot Resolution:

Story Resolution:

Outline

How many words do you want your manuscript to be?

Standard 300 words/page

YA 250-300 words/page

MG 150-250 words/page

$$\frac{\text{word count}}{\text{words per page}} = \text{page count}$$

To map your 15 beat OUTLINE go to Save the Cat!® Beat Mapper found at: <https://savethecat.com/beat-mapper>

Savethecat.com>free tools>beat mapper



Opening

Pages:

Set-Up

Pages:

Theme Stated

Pages:

Catalyst

Page:

Debate

Pages:

Break into 2

Page:

Fun and Games

Pages:

B Story

Page:

Midpoint

Page:

Bad Guys Close In

Pages:

All Is Lost

Page:

Dark Night of the Soul

Pages:

Break into 3

Page:

Finale

Pages:

Final Image

Pages:

Validate

Test your story idea by using the **ProWritingAid Story Canvas** found at:

<https://dashboard.prowritingaid.com/>

Or on the righthand sidebar while working on a document, under **Plan**.

Story Canvas Questions and Answers

Story canvas questions and answers continued....

Notes on feedback from Story Canvas.

Based on feedback from the Story Canvas report, revise the Logline, Blurb, Synopsis, and Beats. You will also want to revisit and revise these throughout the writing process, and again for querying and marketing.

Logline

Blurb

Synopsis

Outline:

Opening

Pages:

Set-Up

Pages:

Theme Stated

Pages:

Catalyst

Page:

Debate

Pages:

Break into 2

Page:

Fun and Games

Pages:

B Story

Page:

Midpoint

Page:

Bad Guys Close In

Pages:

All Is Lost

Page:

Dark Night of the Soul

Pages:

Break into 3

Page:

Finale

Pages:

Final Image

Pages:

Chapter Outline

Use the 15 beats you have drafted to guide your Chapter Outline. Expand on the details of each beat and add plot and story development for each chapter.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

Find me at
cjordanfenton.com



Manuscript

Open the **Manuscript Template document**. Now you are ready to write the manuscript!