

STORY BOOSTERS

Special Ingredients of Great Storytelling

INGREDIENT	CONCEPT LEVEL	OUTLINE LEVEL	SCENE LEVEL
NOVELTY A FRESH IDEA, SETTING, OR PERSPECTIVE	What makes your story idea feel fresh and exciting? How will this story be different from the works that inspired it?	Which scenes and arcs are you most excited to write? How will you dazzle or shock your audience?	What fresh challenge or discovery awaits your characters here? How will this event or encounter be distinct from prior ones?
MYSTERY AN INTRIGUING CENTRAL QUESTION	What central question will drive your audience to keep reading? How will the question grow more complex and difficult to answer? How will you deliver a proper answer?	Do all scenes move your characters closer to answering the central question? Do all subplots have clear ties to the central question?	What questions will be raised or answered here? What new clue, path, or lesson will be uncovered here?
URGENCY PERVASIVE, MEANINGFUL DRAMATIC TENSION	What will be the main source of conflict, and how will it create escalating tension and suspense? What deadlines and stakes will add pressure?	Does your story's pacing suit the type of conflict your characters are facing? Do all setbacks and struggles (even paper cuts) serve your story's arcs?	What type of adversity will your characters experience here? How will it push a plot or character arc forward?
AGENCY RESOURCEFUL, DYNAMIC CHARACTERS	What will make each of your point-of-view characters worth following? How will they be (or become) proactive about solving problems?	How will your main characters show moxie and gain wisdom? How will your protagonist be the one who saves the day (or ruins it)?	What will your point-of-view character try to accomplish here? Are all character motivations clear? If not, will they be clarified later?
HARMONY SATISFYING LOGIC AND EXECUTION	What research and world-building will make your setting more convincing? What themes, conventions, and tropes will serve this story best?	Do events proceed logically and rhythmically? Have you paid off everything you set up (and set up everything you set off)?	Do characters' thoughts, words, and deeds suit them and the situation? Does all action obey (or convincingly bend) your setting's laws of nature?
GRAVITY EMOTIONAL OR INTELLECTUAL IMPACT	What message or warning will you share with your audience? What themes do you want to explore? What will make this story cathartic?	How will you hook and satisfy your target audience? How will you give your story a fitting and memorable ending?	What do you want readers to feel when they read this scene? How will you use sensory detail and suspense to make them feel that way?