

# Initial Annotation Spec

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by: (pat[ri)el(la\*)y)  
\*in dc for a hackathon

# Goals (to get us started)

Goals:

1. to acquire plot summaries of uniform size and format for one genre
2. to identify entities as well as the events, properties, and relationships that affect the entities and show the interactions between the entities
3. to recommend books based on similarities in plots, characters, and character development

# Identifying Entities: Character Identification

- Protagonist (the main character)
- Other characters usually described in terms of their relationship(s) with the protagonist
  - Sidekick/comrade
  - Antagonist
  - Romantic interest
  - Mentor
  - Seeker

# Character Types: Protagonist

- Underdog
  - The Boy Who Lived
  - Frodo Baggins
- Antihero
  - Draco Malfoy
  - Aragorn son of Arathorn
- #flawless
  - Hermione Granger
  - Legolas Greenleaf

# Character Types: Sidekick

- Comic relief
  - Neville Longbottom, Dobby
  - Peregrin Took
- Best Bro 4 Lyfe
  - Ron Weasley
  - Samwise Gamgee
- Muscle
  - Hagrid, Crabbe, Goyle

# Character Types: Antagonist

- **Big Bad Evil Guy**

- You Know Who
- Sauron

- **Miniboss**

- Dolores Umbridge, Draco Malfoy
- Saruman the White, Shelob

- **Traitor**

- Peter Pettigrew
- Gollum, Boromir

# Character Types: Romantic Interest

- Love interest
  - Ginny Weasley ↔ Harry, Ron ↔ Hermione
  - Arwen daughter of Elrond ↔ Aragorn
- Paragon
  - Galadriel

# Character Types: Mentor

- Literal wizard
  - Albus Dumbledore
  - Gandalf the Grey
- Supernatural force, spirit guide
  - Calypso (Pirates of the Caribbean)
- Maternal/Paternal figure
  - Molly Weasley, Sirius Black
  - Bilbo Baggins



# Character Types: Seeker

- Something lost
  - Gollum (“My Precious”)
- Redemption
  - Professor Snape
  - Jorah Mormont
- Revenge
  - Inigo Montoya

# Character Types: Others

- Side characters
  - Seamus Finnegan
- Unknowns / others
  - Entities without description in the blurb

# Annotation Instructions: Character Types

- Tag the first full-name mention of the character; else
- Tag the first named mention of the character; else
- Tag the first nominal descriptor of the character; else
- Tag the first pronominal descriptor of the character; else
- Character is implied by the conflict (non-consuming tag)

# Conflict Identification

- Conflicts facing the main character(s)

Any situation placing two or more characters in opposition with one another

- vs. nature/fate
- vs. other character
- vs. self

- Directionality

- How is the conflict directed?
- ex. From enemy to protagonist or protagonist to enemy?

# Annotation Instructions: Conflict Identification

- Tag verbs and events representing interactions **between** characters
  - directionally:
    - from** agent/source
    - to** theme/goal/malefactive/benefactive/experiencer
- Tag verbs and events representing struggles and victories by characters **against their environment**, non-characters, etc
  - directionally:
    - character is the goal, but what is the source?
    - sometimes explicit non-characters. An arc from implicit Environment “character”?
- Tag verbs and events representing **internal struggles** by characters
  - directionally:
    - character is both the source and goal

# Explicit Characterization

- Description of the various characters, usually in terms of their relationship with the protagonist(s).
  - What do they do/feel/know (or not)?
  - How are they described?

# Ten Ways in which a Character can be Revealed

1. By psychological description.
2. By physical description.
3. By probing what s/he thinks.
4. By what s/he says.
5. By how s/he says it.
6. By what s/he does.
7. By what others say about him or her.
8. By his or her environment.
9. By her reaction to others.
10. By his reaction to himself.

# Theft of Swords (The Riyria Revelations #1)

THEY KILLED THE KING. THEY PINNED IT ON TWO MEN. THEY CHOSE POORLY.

There's no ancient evil to defeat or orphan destined for greatness, just unlikely heroes and classic adventure. Royce Melborn, a skilled thief, and his mercenary partner, Hadrian Blackwater, are two enterprising rogues who end up running for their lives when they're framed for the murder of the king. Trapped in a conspiracy that goes beyond the overthrow of a tiny kingdom, their only hope is unraveling an ancient mystery before it's too late.

protagonist

sidekick

other

antagonist



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protagonist    sidekick    other    antagonist

(First pass: character identification)

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protagonist

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other

antagonist

(Second pass: conflict identification - character vs. environment)

# Heir of Novron (The Riyria Revelations #5-6)

A FORCED WEDDING. A DOUBLE EXECUTION. TWO THIEVES HAVE OTHER PLANS.

The **New Empire** intends to celebrate **its** victory over the Nationalists with a day that will never be forgotten. On the high holiday of Wintertide, **they** plan to execute two traitors (**Degan Gaunt** and the **Witch** of Melengar) as well as force the **Empress** into a marriage of **their** own design. But **they** didn't account for **Royce and Hadrian** finally locating **the Heir of Novron**—or the pair's desire to wreak havoc on **the New Empire**'s carefully crafted scheme.

**Nope.**

Thanks!

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