The Second thing: Create a fake world for our characters to interact with

For our characters to interact with this fake world they need a reason to be there and a mission. So I had to figure out a way to create that out of the stories I read. What helped wa that the one thing that stuck to me through all the readings and rereading was the question, Why do dragons love tacos so much. I mean tacos are delicous and deserve to be loved, but why do all the dragons in what im calling the DLT (D-dragons L-love T-tacos) world love tacos? I also realized that that even though they kinda look the same, dragons and dinosaurs are not the same. For example, dragons love tacos and dinos seem to prefer ppl. (at least 2 out of 4 do).

So potintialy a mission could be, the dinos need to find out why dragons love tacos, mostly because I really want to know. That give us the perfect person to help them find out, Ada Twist, Scientist! Now we have a mission, but what brings our adventurers into the DLT world in the first place. After careful thought I think "the kid" brought them. You know the kid who throws all the best taco parties. My guess is he sent out inviations and somehow mislabled a few that went to our dino adventures. Ok so our adventurers go to the party and feel a little left out, because they dont love tacos but everyone else does. Then salsa gate happens and the house gets burned down. While the dragons are rebuilding the house the dinos decided to find out why dragons love tacos so that maybe they can also love tacos and feel more included at the next taco party, which they assume they will def be invited to because the one they were at got burned down.

Now lets pause to consider the DLT world, whats it like? I mean how else will we know what our dino adventurers will encounter on their adventure? We know that in the DLT world its a known fact that dragons love tacos, what else do we know?

\*there are mountains with snow caps

\*there are taco caves (stores)

\*everything seems gray and flat

\*there are brown "fields?" for parties with instruments and dancing

\*there is at least one beach with a few coconut trees

\*I saw short gray trees with leaves pointing down (like Christmas trees) and tall skinny trees with leaves pointing up (like reverse Christmas trees)

\*there is a boat on land by a kid and his dogs house, he fills the boat with tacos during parties

\*said kid was able to buy boxes of supplies for tacos (tomatoes, lettuces, cheese, beef, and chicken) where did they come from? prehaps a taco cave store?

\*when the taco shortage came the kid came through with a time machine.

using the time machine

\*the kid also discoverd that tacos can be planted to create taco trees.

\*this world has a newspaper

\*taco scientist are a thing in the DLT world

using the things we know what conclusions can we create about the DLT world? After making a list, then embelishing that list, then expounding upon that embelishment here his what I came up with.

\*If you live in DLT world you most likely work in the taco industry they are the main suppliers of jobs, there are other industries but its a taco town.

\*all DLT worlds taco supplies are insourced except for the salsa. They attempt to make salsa but its never as good as what they get exported. In fact there is a fantastic festival every 3 years where they attempt to make salsa again. its like a chilli cookoff but at the end they just unveil the giant custom glass salsa jar they made for this reason only. it has been prefilled with gallons of outsourced salsa and they all eat that and use the salsa they made as fertilizer for the taco crops.

\*Taco cave is the main exporter of taco supplies and pre assembled tacos.

\*prehaps the taco cave industry farms taco trees after the discovery that you can plant tacos. the kid and his dog are trailblazers

\*Taco cave also supports taco research and trains taco scientist to work out the kinks that pop up in the taco crops industry.

\*main forms of entertainment are parties. All kinds of parties, parties in the fields, dance parties at the beach, costume parties, pool parties, big gigantic parties with accordions, and tiny little parties with charades. they love parties for the conversation, the dancing, the comforting sound of a good freind's laughter, and so much more. They espeically love taco parties as they combine the two things the dragons love best, parties and tacos. Parties at the kids house are the best. he throws the best parties excpeially taco parties. Everyone is trying to get invited to one the kids taco parties.

\*DLT world is gray and flat. there is a distant mountain range all the mountains have snowy peaks following the mountains is a distant forest of tall trees whos leaves go skyward . intersecting that forest is a river that flows thru DLT as well. the trees inside of DLT are short and look like Christmas trees. there is also a scattering of coconut trees on the beach, but dragons don't like coconuts.

\*the dragons found out (after the fact and in large part due to ada twist) that the taco crops were desimated because for the last 2 salsa festivals it had become popular to use chives in the salsa fertilizer recipie, but in fact those were not chives they were halopino peppers and apparently crops dont like spicy salsa either.

Now comes the fun part. Now that we have characters, a mission for them, some background as to who they are and why they are together. As well as an overview of the physical place where they are an some of the cultures of the ppl who inhabit that place we can let ourselves go. Before we get to coding since this is going to be a text based story lets write a story. You can use old fashion pencil and paper but I like typing instead, helps me get my thoughts out faster. If you are going to type I suggest using Notepad (windows) or TextEdit (mac) instead of word. At least for your first draft. Since Notepad and TextEdit are just word processors and do not bother with format or spelling i find using them to be a good way to get all the ideas out quickly without worrying about all that extra stuff. I started my story with the dinos getting an invitation to the party in the mail. Were they all together? Did they get separate invites and only meet when they showed up? How did they get to the party? these were just the beginning of all the things I had to decide.

I had one idea in my head before I started writing but during the writing process the story took on its own ideas. I suggest that while writing out your story inside the story write little notes to yourself. for example I wanted to write about an interaction the Dinos had with a cashier at at Taco Cave I didnt know what to call the land that the dragons live in so I just called it DragonLand followed by a note.

>>>dragon land is the WORST NAME EVER!<<<

That way I would remember to change the name later. If you come to a part of your story where you get stuck or dont know what to do just write yourself a note and keep writing even if you just pull something out of the air. When I first started writing my story I had no clue were to start, So i started with a note about not knowing where to start

>>> IDK how to start. how do these dinos know each other?! where do i start this story?! I feel that Penelope and Hank Ree know each other from an internet chat room group for hungry dinos who used to like eating ppl the most but due to whatever have changed their ways. Like AA but for ppl eating dinos. I want to say that tiny started taking care of rogue when her owner (died?) but idk hes so young in the story and I feel she may be older than him....maybe they are in a snuggle chatroom or a chatroom for dinos who like to hug/be hugged? then maybe pen and rogue get the invite and make hank and tinny their plus one....lets go with that... then again, where do we start this story? like at the party? if so from whos perspective? <<<

From there I just looked at what I knew about Tiny the Trex and started writing about him. Before I knew it I had a backstory for him and how he got invited to the party. Then I knew the Dinos would all meet at the party so they each had to be invited individually and I kept writing.

Initially I wanted the main goal of the story to be the Dinos searching to find out why dragons love tacos. But as I wrote things changed. The Kid who throws the best taco parties would know better than to buy spicy salsa so where did it come from. The dinos want to find out so at the next party they can try a taco, none of them have ever had one before so to find out why dragons love tacos they need to start out with trying one. To do that they must solve the totally mild spicy salsa mystery. Its not my original idea but I like it!

If you want to read my novella you can check it out HERE. Hope it can provide you with some inspiration. Now get writing!