

Welcome to the Easy Writing Newsletter, a weekly blast of inspiration to help you and your writing - creatively and financially.

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Greetings

Over the last year, many people have asked me to set up a critique group designed to help writers.

IMHO, too many crit groups are destructive and cruel. I wanted to create something that nurtured talent and encouraged self expression.

With this in mind I set up the Easy Way to Write Critique Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ewtwcritique/>

Okay, so there are rules - posted at the site - but take a look and be assured that your work will be treated kindly and fairly by all the writers involved:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ewtwcritique/>

As always, contact me for any reason at:
rob@easywaytowrite.com

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Building Novel Templates

During some recent chat sessions I've been banging on about building novel templates assuming everyone knows what I'm talking about!

I tend to forget that not everyone out there has read The Easy Way to Write a Novel.

Really? How bizarre!

<http://easywaytowrite.com/novel.html>

Seriously, for the benefit of those who want to know how to go about constructing simple plans for their novels, here's a simplified version of what's in the book.

First, know your characters inside out, work through a rough story outline either in your head or on paper, making sure it's your characters that define the story and not the other way round.

Okay, so that's the tough bit. Now for the easy bit.

Get a piece of paper and write 1 to 10 down the left hand side with plenty of space for writing in between.

Next to No 1, write Intro.

Next to No 10, write Finale

At No 1, write one sentence, no more, describing your opening scene.

At No 10, write one sentence describing the last scene in your book.

For instance, if you were writing a love story, next to No 1 you might write: 'Jane finds herself alone after husband John dies'

At No 10, you might write 'Dirk asks for Jane's hand in marriage.'

It's simplistic I know but that's almost the point.

Now, against 2 to 9, write down the major plot points that will take your reader from the beginning of your novel to the end. These will act as cues for scenes in your writing.

Now read it through. Is there logic? Does it seem satisfying? Is there a moral, a point to the story?

If so, good. If not, start again. It's no big deal.

If you're happy with what you've got, write a couple of words, lines etc linking the plot points. These act as more cues for scenes in your novel.

Next, transfer everything on to PC and begin to expand on your short sentences.

Start to describe how you're going to open scenes, what you're going to write about, what actions take place, what the various conversations will be about and how issues might be set up and resolved.

At the end of this process you should have a draft template for your novel.

Read over it a few times to see if it includes everything you want to mention in your novel.

This is a great exercise for many reasons, not least that it helps you visualize your novel in its entirety, probably one of the best tricks you'll ever have to pull as a writer!

Not only that, it can help you iron out problems before you start writing. Too many writers stumble during their novels because they run out of steam and can't remember where it was going, or discover it's now different from how they imagined it.

I know planning novels is not everyone's idea of creative bliss. Indeed many writers tell me they just can't do it, don't want to do it, and will fight to protect their right to make up the story as they go along.

Fine. That works for some.

But let me tell you something I've learnt, in my long career teaching writers to write novels.

With a novel template you are at least twenty times more likely to finish your novel than without one!

Sobering thought, eh?

So before you dismiss the idea, at least give the template a fair go.

robparnell 2004,
Author of the classic Internet bestseller:
The Easy Way to Write a Novel
<http://www.easywaytowrite.com/novel.html>

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Featured Resource

Thriller Writing. 6 weeks.

I just can't help mentioning my new e-course again. It's taken me a year to put together and I think it really is the best thriller writing resource available on the Net at this time!

Check out what's on offer and join me for live interactive lessons and help and more:

<http://easywaytowrite.com/thriller.html>

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Inspiration, Which Rock is That Under?

Imagine life as a toad. Describe your day.

Or if that's too easy, imagine you are a plant with a brain and can't speak. How do you feel?

How are you going to communicate your plight
and overcome your obstacles?

Answers on a postcard please...

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Till next time, thanks for reading,

Do keep well and happy,

Yours ever,

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Creating Better Writers
<http://easywaytowrite.com>
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