

Lesson 3 Revision Worksheets:

Analyzing the Book You Wrote

Finding Plot Holes:

To evaluate plot, you need to first identify the events that constitute the main plot thread (external events) and the events that constitute subplots (love interest, side mystery, etc.).

To do this, take your scene cards and start separating them out according to which plot/subplot they belong to. You should end up with a few stacks. If you have a scene that falls into multiple stacks, then make a note (a small tick in the corner or something) that reminds you to move it to another stack when you reach it.

Now you will examine the scene cards by laying them out by stack. For example, take the main plot stack and lay them out in order before you (you may need a lot of floor space for this!). Your job is to examine the scenes and identify gaps in the story – places where scenes may be missing, the order doesn't make sense, the plot changes with no warning, etc.

On the Plot Holes worksheet, you will identify these trouble spots. You will also refer to your original Plot Problems worksheet (that you filled out in Lesson 1). When you see problems mentioned there, you will transfer them to your Plot Holes worksheet. Print out as many copies of the Plot Holes Worksheet as you need.

The goal is to lay out the problems in an orderly, *legible* manner.

Summarizing the Book You Wrote:

To really dig deep in your evaluation, it helps to write a 1-page synopsis for your book. This allows you to see if you're missing any of the critical components in your external plot's structure.

To write your one-page synopsis, simply answer the questions on the Summarizing the Book You Wrote worksheet. Don't worry about style—just do the best you can to condense your plot into paragraph-sized pieces.

Keep in mind, this is the same worksheet I use to write my 1-page synopsis, but I also use it when planning my story. It may or may not follow the kind of story you wish to tell, but the

general goal here is to boil your novel down to the most important events. If you need help using this worksheet, check out <http://letthewordsflow.wordpress.com/2010/11/24/how-to-write-a-1-page-synopsis/> for a full explanation.

Evaluating Character:

To evaluate character, we're going to break apart the people we created by their goal, motivation, and conflict (GMC). You'll need to print out a character worksheet for EACH important character: the protagonist, antagonist, and all major secondary characters. It's up to you to decide which characters need thorough analysis, and which are okay with only a surface evaluation.

Also, if you need help understanding GMC, read <http://letthewordsflow.wordpress.com/2010/12/16/goal-motivation-and-conflict/> for an in-depth explanation.

Once you finish the GMC pages, you'll answer 2 questions about your general impressions about the character. If this is the first novel you've ever written, it's not a bad idea to answer these questions about EVER SINGLE CHARACTER. Why? Because oftentimes we introduce characters and go into great depth with them, when in reality, the character plays a very minor part in the story. Other times, we barely describe a character or offer any insight despite the character being a huge player in plot events.

Evaluating Setting:

Evaluating setting is very straightforward. Simply answer the questions.