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Do You Plot With Your Character In Mind?

By Nick Vernon

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Creative Writing Tips -

You are plotting the story. You write down what will happen, what problems will arise, what obstacles you will place so the character won't reach his goals immediately, what he's going to do to overcome these problems etc...

So all these things will be happening to your character since it's his story we are telling.

Does it make sense then to have your character in mind as you plot these things?

It does. Because it will depend, based on the type of person he is, how he will face these problems, what he will feel, what he will think, what he will do.

Different types of personalities make up our world. Some people worry too much, so whatever problems come along, they will worry with the same intensity. Other people view the lighter side of life. Minor problems do not affect them as largely as major problems. To some challengers are welcome – they thrive on them. To others, challengers are viewed with fear and uncertainty.

As you're plotting the events of your story they have to correspond with the type of personality your character possesses.

Do You Plot With Your Character In Mind?

What happens when you plot without thinking of your character?

He will act 'out of character.' He will do, say, think, feel things that don't suit his personality.

For instance...

If your character is a worrier and you place him in a situation where he doesn't worry, then that's making him act according to how you want him to act in your plot.

You're manipulating him to suit your plot – You're not writing with his personality in mind.

As you plot the events in the story, simultaneously build your character.

Cross-reference what you have written about your character and the situation he is in. Do they correspond?

Besides his passion for writing, Nick Vernon runs an online gift site where you will find gift information, articles and readers' funny stories. Visit

<http://www.we-recommend.com>

Have You Tested Your Plot?

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Creative Writing Tips -

Our plotting stage is our testing area.

Everything in the plot should be tested for its effectiveness before we put it into our stories. If you believe something in your plot could be better, make it better.

Figuring everything out in your plot will save you time rewriting later.

So how do you test your plot?

Start with everything that has gone into it.

For example... Are the events interesting? Does your plot contain problems for the character to solve? Have you given your character a goal? Is the conflict strong? Is the resolution of the conflict interesting? Is the character interesting? Is the setting of the story interesting? Will the incident or situation be interesting to your readers? Etc

Make a list of what your plot contains. Comb through it carefully and tick off each item. If you find that

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some things need to be worked on some more, work on them.

I know to some this might be tedious work, but...

"Every one-minute you spend in planning
will save you at least three minutes in execution."

Crawford Greenwald

Besides his passion for writing, Nick Vernon runs an online gift site where you will find gift information, articles and readers' funny stories. Visit

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