

Have You Tested Your Theme Against Your Plot?



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By **Nick Vernon**

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Creative Writing Tips -

How we usually begin the preparation stage in the writing process is... We think of an idea for a story

We think of a suitable theme We plot

Once we come up with a theme and we begin plotting, we have to see how the theme and the plot match up. Sometimes as we plot we find that the theme we had initially chosen won't do.

For example...

'Winning The Lottery Makes Your Life Easier'

Plotting with this theme in mind, we have our characters pay off all their debts, go on endless shopping sprees, go on holidays, etc. We find though that this won't make a very interesting story. So we spice it up, adding to the theme or coming up with a different one.

"Winning The Lottery Makes Your Life Easier But Everything Has Its Price."

We can show the characters living the life of the rich for a while before they realize that being wealthy has its problems too... They now fear for their safety Their friends and relatives are constantly

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harping at their door asking for assistance Etc

This second scenario creates more problems for the characters, so it's more interesting for us readers.

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The preparation stage is there to prepare before you write. It's our workbench where we figure everything out. We test our theme, we test our plot and once everything passes the test, then we begin writing.

You can change the theme as many times as you feel it needs changing, while you are in the preparation stage.

The main thing is to make your story interesting.

It's not a good idea to keep changing the theme when writing the story because then you will have to keep changing the story. This means rewriting.

Figure everything out then write.

Have you tested your theme against your plot?

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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### **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 in 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?

## Have You Tested Your Theme Against 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 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

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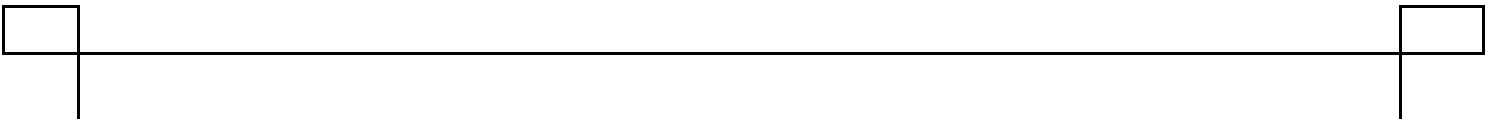
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