

The One-Page Book Summary

This is the explanation page. Fill out the single page at the end

TITLE

Select a working title for your book.

BYLINE:

Simply by saying, “By *ME*” you are claiming your authority over this story. You are the god of your story!

GENRE

Note the genre of your book. If you need help, read through the genre designations at goodreads.com.

IDEAL READER

Who is your ideal reader? Describe her in terms of why she is hungry for what you are offering. When she will tell her friends to read your book, what exactly will she say? We want to get at what the story might *mean* to your ideal reader.

COMPETITIVE TITLES

Who are the big players in your genre? The bestselling authors? Do some research. Pick two titles and briefly explain how your book will appeal to the readers of those books and also offer something new.

POINT

What is the point of your book? All novels make a point and before you revise, you must be clear on what that point is. Think of this as the takeaway of your story – what your reader will believe about human nature when they get to “the end.” It’s the argument you are making, the “bumper sticker” message for the book. If it sounds like a cliche, you are probably on the right track. Another way to think about this is to ask: What are you offering your readers? Insight? Inspiration? Solace? Delight?

MAIN CHARACTER ARC

Who is your main character before the story starts? What does she want?

- Name the external things – money, a home, a prize, a mate, etc.
- Name the internal things – confidence, faith, peace, belonging, etc.

When the story is over, how has she changed? Who is she now? Does she get what she wants? And does it make her feel the way she hoped it would?

MAIN CONFLICT

What is preventing your character from getting what she wants?

- Name the external things – an evil boss, her family’s expectations, etc.
- Name the internal things – fear, a sense of unworthiness, etc.

TIMELINE

How long a period of time does your story cover? What happens at the start that triggers the story to happen TODAY and not any other day? (What, in other words, pushes your main character to act?) And what happens at the end to make the story resolve?

PLOT SUMMARY

What happens in your story? Knowing what you know about the point, the character arc, and the main conflict, summarize the entire story in just four or five sentences. This may seem impossible, but it is a skill you will need to develop. A short summary is used when pitching, when writing copy for amazon entries, and at cocktail parties when people at a conference ask you what your book is about.

IDEAL BOOK REVIEW

Write one sentence you dream a critic would write about your book.

NIGHTMARE BOOK REVIEW

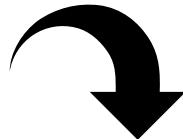
Write one sentence that would appear in your worst nightmare of a book review.

FILL OUT THE SINGLE PAGE BELOW.

If you'd like support, accountability and feedback as you write or revise your novel,

come check out Author Accelerator.

We'd be delighted to match you with a coach who can help you write your best book.



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