

# Plot Line Checklist



**Working Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Theme**

The story's main idea in 1 - 2 sentences.

## **Tone**

The feeling and/or atmosphere you're trying to create.

## **Setting**

### **The details of your story's world(s):**

- Era
- Location
- History
- Religion/Spirituality
- Politics

### **Fantasy and sci-fi, also include:**

- Magic System
- Level of Science & Technology
- Races
- Other important information

## **Characters**

Character details for your protagonist(s) and antagonist(s) should include:

### **Basics:**

- Name
- Age
- Gender
- Race
- Residence
- Occupation
- Social Status

### **Background:**

- Family: parents, siblings, spouse, children & attitudes toward each
- Significant Experiences
- Education & Intelligence
- Political Views
- Recreation, Hobbies & Interests

### **Physical Aspects:**

- Appearance
- Clothing Style
- Movement Style
- Health
- Mannerisms & Habits
- Speech: accents, dialect, impediments, etc.

### **Internal Aspects:**

- Mental State
- Emotional State
- Spiritual Views
- Ethics & Morals
- Personal Values

# Plot Line Checklist

<b>Motivational Considerations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motivations</li><li>• Wants &amp; Needs</li><li>• Strengths &amp; Weaknesses</li><li>• Fears &amp; Defence Mechanisms</li><li>• Goals &amp; Ambitions</li></ul>	<b>Story Oriented:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relation with &amp; views of other characters</li><li>• What others think of him/her</li><li>• Conflicts (internal &amp; external)</li><li>• Changes they will undergo throughout the story</li></ul>
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Less detailed character write ups should also be done for anyone who has a role in moving the story forward.

## Story Arc

The basic anatomy of a story follows a simple formula:

### **Set Up**

- Introduction of protagonist(s) and everyday life
- Introduction of antagonist(s)
- Introduction of conflicts (internal and external)
- Event or decision that initiates action

Avoid any info dumps. Weave the characters' backgrounds and important information into the story itself.

### **Action**

- Attempted solution
- Sub-plots
- Plot twists
- Failure to overcome

The Action stage drives your story and can be repeated as many times as necessary, upping the stakes each time until the characters plunge into the next stage.

### **Climax**

- Increasing conflict to the point of "no win"
- Resolution

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This section needs to be as big as the previous sections. While it doesn't necessarily need to be as big in length, it must have a big impact so the reader feels satisfied instead of wondering "That's it?"

## **Conclusion**

- Show what life is like for characters now
- Close all existing story arcs
- If there's a sequel, set up the next conflicts and story arcs

This stage should only be one chapter.



This formula is just a basic guideline to get you from point A to point B. Whatever wonders you choose to fill those gaps with is limitless.

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