

Resources for Writers

Books

These are some books that we have at the library about craft, developing your skills, or just living life as a writer, what it means, and lessons learned. The BEST way to learn about writing is to read what you want to write! But you also want to read about writing from other writers. Other writers have experience to share, so I encourage all of you to talk with other writers about their experience, read blogs, use social media as research, ask questions, and be open to critique. Every writer and story are unique. Someone else's process or experience may vary from yours, or maybe their "advice" doesn't work for your style, if at all. Right now, most of you are still figuring out what your style is, so read and write as much as you can because practice leads to growth.

- James Scott Bell
 - Plot & Structure: Techniques and Exercises for Crafting a Plot That Grips Readers from Start to Finish
 - Write Your Novel from the Middle: A New Approach for Plotters, Pantsers and Everyone in Between
 - Revision & Self-Editing: Techniques for Transforming Your First Draft into a Finished Novel
 - Elements of Fiction Writing: Conflict and Suspense
 - The Last Fifty Pages: The Art And Craft Of Unforgettable Endings
- Story Engineering by Larry Brooks
- Self-Editing for Fiction Writers, Second Edition: How to Edit Yourself Into Print by Renni Brown & Dave King
- Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer by Peter Roy Clark
- Story Genius: How to Use Brain Science to Go Beyond Outlining and Write a Riveting Novel (Before You Waste Three Years Writing 327 Pages That Go Nowhere) by Lisa Cron
- Hooked: Write Fiction That Grabs Readers at Page One & Never Lets Them Go by Les Edgerton
- Natalie Goldberg
 - Writing Down the Bones
 - The Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life
- On Writing by Stephen King
- Bird By Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott
- Donald Maas
 - Any of his works could be beneficial for new writers!

- The War Of Art: Break Through The Blocks And Win Your Inner Creative Battles by Steven Pressfield
- K.M. Weiland
 - Structuring Your Novel: Essential Keys for Writing an Outstanding Story
 - Outlining Your Novel: Map Your Way to Success
- On Writing Well by William Knowlton Zinsser
- Writers Helping Writers Thesaurus Series: <https://writershelpingwriters.net/bookstore/>
(NOT in the library)

YouTube Channels

- Brandon Sanderson
- Terrible Writing Advice
- WordNerds
- The Creative Penn
- Writing With Jenna
- iWriterly

Podcasts

- Writing Excuses (Start at Season 10!)
- Amie Kaufman on Writing
- DIY MFA
- The Writer Files
- Story Grid Podcast
- First Draft Writers
- Fiction Writing Made Easy
- The Well-Storied Podcast

Online Resources

I've compiled a list of articles, worksheets, tips and blogs that you may find helpful on your journey!

- Storyteller's Roadmap: <https://onestopforwriters.com/storytellers-roadmap>
- Worksheets
 - Writers Helping Writers
 - Novel Software
 - Write Smarter
 - One Stop For Writers
- Writer's Digest: Write Better Fiction: <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-fiction>
- Finding Your Writing Process

- Now Novel: <https://www.nownovel.com/blog/the-writing-process-7-steps/>
- ThoughtCo: <https://www.thoughtco.com/explore-and-evaluate-your-writing-process-1692857>
- How to Write a Novel: <https://jerryjenkins.com/how-to-write-a-novel/>
- [Writing Forward](#)
- [Jericho Writers](#)
- [Write It Sideways](#)
- [Write Smarter Not Harder](#)
- One Stop for Writers: [Thesaurus Description Database / Image Tips](#)
 - Do not feel like you have to subscribe to their content, but instead you can explore The Stacks and use some of their free stuff. I highlighted what I found the most useful!

Outlining and Plotting

Writing a novel can be done in many ways. You can make it up as you go, or you can outline, or even a bit of both. When I was a new writer, I did not outline – and there's a freedom and fun to loving the words you're writing, and discovering the story you want to tell. That's what matters. How you get there varies.

In the words of Chuck Wendig, “My advice (to new writers) is to outline if you gotta outline, don't if you don't. Or outline after a first draft going into the second. Or do a beat sheet. Or do a flowchart or spreadsheet or nothing at all. We all get to the story a different way. You gotta find your own path, not somebody else's. Writing and storytelling is not math. You can't just follow the equation and get the same answer as everyone else. Writing and storytelling is birdsong and architecture. A fingerprint pressed in snow. Someone else's process and voice cannot become your own. We all make our own maps and burn them after. Sometimes even from book to book. Every book I've written has endured a changing process, and each book has reminded me I don't know how to write books. I re-learn that lesson AND my process every f***ing time.”

I agree with this. If you can just write and explore your story, then do that! Do the groundwork of knowing your characters, your conflict, and where you're going with your plot, but don't bog yourself down with the details. **Just write.** You cannot edit a blank page, and if you spend too much time trying to figure out your story, you never actually write.

If you want to outline, then you can – and the great news is there are tons of ways to create an outline. It's all about finding the method that works for you. There is a lot of trial and error, and maybe your own process will be pieces of everything. It can take years to work out your process, and that process can change based on whatever book you're writing. The key is to be open. If you already know you want to outline, I suggest reading about a variety of outlining methods, and then selecting one or two that seem interesting, dig deeper to learn more about those specific methods. You should try them before you commit to one.

Here are some articles, and some may be repetitive, but I wanted to show you just how many options there are. If it's too overwhelming, start with the first three links and go from there!

1. Plotter Vs. Pantser: What's Your Style: <https://inkwellspills.com/plotter-vs-pantser-what-is-your-writing-style/>
2. Finding the Outlining Process That Works For You: <https://www.well-storied.com/blog/finding-the-novel-outlining-process-that-works-for-you>
3. Outlines for Beginners: <https://inkwellspills.com/learn-how-to-become-a-plotter-novel-outlines-for-beginners/>

- Helpful tools: <https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/how-to-outline-your-novel/>
- Basic Plots: <https://www.how-to-write-a-book-now.com/basic-plots.html>

- 12 Great Ways To Outline: <https://thejohnfox.com/2020/01/12-great-ways-to-outline-a-novel/>
- How to Plot a Novel: <https://jerichowriters.com/how-to-plot-a-novel/>
- Seven Ways to Plot: <https://www.nownovel.com/blog/7-ways-write-plot-outline/>
- Five Plotting Methods: <https://inkwellspills.com/five-plotting-methods-how-to-plot-a-novel-series/>
- Save The Cat: website <https://savethecat.com/> and books: Save the Cat
 - This is a VERY popular method of plotting using beats.

Other Tools

These are optional tools that you may enjoy. None of them are required to write!

- Scrivenor: <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/>
 - This is the program I use to write in. It's an all-in-one organizing tool. You can also use word or google docs, or whatever you want!
- Dabble: <https://www.dabblewriter.com/>
 - This is the cloud version of Scrivenor, more limited but also handy.
- Plottr: <https://plottr.com/>
 - We talked about this is in our group, but if you want to plot visually, you can!
- NaNoWriMo: <https://nanowrimo.org/>
 - November is National Novel Writing Month. You can also use their site to explore, read articles, connect with other writers, and learn more about writing!