

Worksheet for Structure of Your Novel: Fill in the Blanks

Note: This is an exercise. It is only an exercise. It is for THINKING ABOUT YOUR NOVEL

I. Ask this question about your novel:: **What does the main character want?**

1. What does the central character think he or she wants?

2. _____
What does the central character REALLY want?

3. _____
What are the motives for wanting it?

4. _____
Where and how in the story do you show this?

5. What/who stands in the way?

6. _____
Do you know yet if the character will get what he or she wants? _____

II **Now answer these questions.** Some may lead to strategies for organizing it:

7. What is the time frame of your novel? How many days, months, years, does it cover?

8. What setting is used most often, or is most important? Do we come back repeatedly to this one important setting?

9. What is the most crucial scene?

10. Who is the “Last Man Standing”? That is to say, which character has the final word, last insight—the point of view just before The End??

III. **Which best represents your novel’s arc of story?**

- from problem to solution
- from mystery to solution
- from conflict to peace
- from danger to safety
- from confusion to order
- from dilemma to decision
- from ignorance to knowledge
- from questions to answers