

# Book Development Template

PDF



## The Ultimate Book Development Template

With a little help from [blog.reedsy.com](http://blog.reedsy.com)

1. [Concept Development](#)
2. [Developing the Protagonist](#)
3. [Developing the Cast](#)
4. [Developing the World](#)
5. [Developing the Plot](#)
6. [Form, Style, and Voice](#)
7. [The Writing Plan](#)

### Exercise #1: Concept Development

*A great story is built on a great premise. This exercise is meant to help you develop a strong foundation for your story.*

This story follows \_\_\_\_\_, [\[brief character bio\]](#). Their life changes/story begins when \_\_\_\_\_ [\[inciting incident\]](#). This causes \_\_\_\_\_ [\[problem\]](#). They wish to \_\_\_\_\_ [\[goal\]](#) but are held back by \_\_\_\_\_ [\[antagonistic forces\]](#).

#### Part I: Character

*This story follows \_\_\_\_\_, [\[brief character bio\]](#)*



Brief description of character (occupation, skill, lifestyle, etc):


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 Emotional trait or problem:

Part II: Plot

When \_\_\_\_\_ [*inciting incident*], which causes \_\_\_\_\_ [*problem*]


 Inciting incident:

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 Problem:

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Part III: Goal

They wish to \_\_\_\_\_ [*goal*]

 Goal:


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Part IV: Antagonist


Held back by \_\_\_\_\_ [*antagonistic forces*]

 Internal antagonist:

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 External antagonist:

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## Exercise #2: Developing the Protagonist


*Now that you've got the premise of your story down, it's time to zoom in on your protagonist. This exercise will help you sketch out the fundamentals of your MC.*

 5 (possibly) positive qualities:

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 5 (possibly) negative qualities:

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 Personality type:

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 Aspirations and goals:

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 Belief system (written as 'I believe...' statements):


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 Significant life events & backstory:

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 Skills:

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 Appearance:

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 Mannerisms, body language, speaking style:

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 What is the MC's character arc in the story? How do they change and grow?

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**PRO-TIP:** Download a character profile [here](#) to fill out (and understand) your protagonist to the max.

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## Exercise #3: Developing the Cast

*Behind every strong MC is a strong supporting cast. This exercise will help you flesh out the key relationships in your protagonist's life.*

What important relationships were a part of the MC's past?

-  Who were they?

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-  Their influences on the protagonist?

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-  What happened to the relationship(s)?


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What important relationships are a part of the MC's life now?

-  Who are they?

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- 🙌 Their influences on the protagonist?

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- 🤝 What will happen to the relationship(s)?

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Select at least one and at most three important relationships to focus on developing. What are their progressions?

- ✅ Relationship #1:

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- ✅ Relationship #2:

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- ✅ Relationship #3:

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## Exercise #4: Developing the World

*The key to an impactful setting: it should put pressure on the character to grow. This exercise will help you identify how your setting can accomplish this.*

 Where and when is the story set?

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 What other settings will we visit in the story? List them here.

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What does the main setting look like?

☐  Weather?

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☐  Imagery associated with the setting?

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☐  What are the people like?

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 What does a day-to-day for this place look like? Describe it in a few sentences.

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What challenges does this setting present? What opportunities?

-  Challenges:

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-  Opportunities:

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 How long as the MC been here? How do they feel about it?

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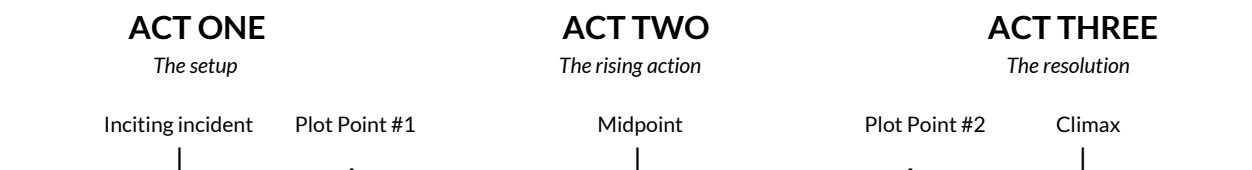
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 **PRO-TIP:** Download a [worldbuilding template here](#) to further develop key elements of your setting.

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## Exercise #5: Developing the Plot

*This exercise for plot development is based on the popular three-act structure method. This exercise will help define your plot.*





Identify the 5 key points on the timeline:


-  Inciting incident:

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-  Plot point #1:

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-  Midpoint:

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-  Plot point #2:

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-  Climax:

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 **PRO-TIP:** Want to learn more? Check out this comprehensive [guide on the three-act structure](#).


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## Exercise #6: Form, Style, and Voice

*If a book's structure is its walls, its voice and style is the interior design that makes the book truly unique. This is an exercise to help you nail down how this particular book will be told.*

### Developing the book's form

 POV: \_\_\_\_\_

 Tense: \_\_\_\_\_

 Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_

 Voice and tone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emotional core:

-  What are the primary emotions in this piece?

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-  Atmosphere and mood?


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### Developing your voice

 Identify three books whose style or voice is similar to what you want:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_


 Read a few pages from each and describe what they do specifically:

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 Write a scene from your character's voice. How close is it to hitting the mark? What do you wish it did differently?

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*Your story deserves to be read by the world! This exercise will help you determine the logistics of your writing process, so that your finished work sees the light of day.*

 What's your project timeline?

**31** Set a deadline for finishing your first draft.

To complete your book, how many words do you need to write per:

-  Week?

-  Month?

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