



BLUEPRINT FOR A BOOK:

Build Your Novel from the Inside Out

Workbook Answers

Part 1: Story Fundamentals

1. Why write this book? Write one page.
2. What's your point? Write one or two lines.
3. Write a super simple version of your story — one or two sentences, maybe three.
4. Brainstorm some book titles. Try to think of 15 and highlight your favorite.
5. Define your genre.



6. Who is your ideal reader?

- How old is she?
- Where does she live?
- How does she spend her day (in very broad strokes) — mom, kindergarten teacher, dog owner, business owner, truck driver, senator?
- What keeps her up at night? What does she worry about, care about, wonder about?
- What does she want more than anything in the world?
- What can your book do to help her get it?
- What other books does your ideal reader love? Aim to find three books and answer these questions:
 - Why does she love these other books?
 - What will your book add to the conversation?
 - What would your ideal reader say after finishing your book?

7. Write your book jacket copy. No more than 250 words.



Part 2: Design a Structure

8. Who is your protagonist?

- What does your protagonist want in the world?
- What does your protagonist want inside themselves?
- What is standing in your protagonist's way of getting what she wants?

9. Who is telling your tale?

10. Two questions about time:

- Where does your narrator stand in time?
- What is the period of time that elapses in your story?

11. Where does the story start and where does it end?

- The Kitchen Timer Scene Challenge:

- Opening Scene
- Closing Scene



12. Develop your “Because of That” story summary.

Once upon a time there was _____.

Every day _____. One day _____.

Because of that _____.

Because of that _____.

Until finally _____.

And ever since that day _____.



Part 3: The Inside Outline

13. Develop your Inside Outline. Here is a reminder of the rules:

- Use standard manuscript formatting: 1-inch margins, Times Roman 12-point font, single line spacing, one full line space between the bullet-point pairings.
- Write no more than 3 pages.
- Each bullet point should have no more than 3 lines.
- Each Scene must *cause* the next one so your story has a narrative drive.

14. Use the Ten Point Inside Outline Checklist to evaluate your work. Download a copy [here](#).