character-driven plot

WORKSHEETS TO HELP YOU FUSE CHARACTERS & PLOT SEAMLESSLY

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STEP #1: PAY ATTENTION TO PLOT

REREAD ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE STORIES. NOTE WHERE THE PLOT MOVES FORWARD. WRITE OUT THE 10 MAIN EVENTS THAT HAPPEN IN THE STORY.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 

THEN, DISTILL THESE STEPS INTO A BRIEF SUMMARY. KEEP IT SHORT: A COUPLE SENTENCES, 1 PARAGRAPH AT MOST.
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**STEP #2: FIGURE OUT THE CHARACTER'S DESIRES & FEARS**
DO THIS FIRST FOR YOUR MASTER'S STORY

WHAT DOES THIS CHARACTER CONSCIOUSLY, ACTIVELY WANT? WHY?

WHAT DOES THIS CHARACTER SUBCONSCIOUSLY WANT? WHY DO THEY WANT THIS?

WHAT DOES THIS CHARACTER FEAR? WHY?

WHAT BACKSTORY IS REVEALED THROUGH FIGURING OUT THE DESIRES AND FEARS?
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HOW ARE THIS CHARACTER’S INTERNAL FORCES CONFLICTING WITH THE EXTERNAL FORCES?

WHAT STEPS DID THIS CHARACTER TAKE TO REACH THEIR ULTIMATE GOALS?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

WHAT WAS AT STAKE? WHAT WEIGHT DO THESE EVENTS CARRY?
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**FIGURE OUT YOUR CHARACTER’S DESIRES & FEARS**

NOW DO THIS FOR YOUR STORY

**WHAT DOES YOUR CHARACTER CONSCIOUSLY, ACTIVELY WANT? WHY?**

**WHAT DOES YOUR CHARACTER SUBCONSCIOUSLY WANT? WHY DO THEY WANT THIS?**

**WHAT DOES YOUR CHARACTER FEAR? WHY?**

**WHAT BACKSTORY IS REVEALED THROUGH FIGURING OUT THE DESIRES AND FEARS?**
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HOW ARE YOUR CHARACTER'S INTERNAL FORCES CONFLICTING WITH THE EXTERNAL FORCES?

WHAT STEPS WILL YOUR CHARACTER TAKE TO REACH THEIR ULTIMATE GOALS?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

WHAT IS AT STAKE? WHAT WEIGHT DO THESE EVENTS CARRY?
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STEP #3: USE THEIR DESIRES TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO GO
WHAT IS THE IDEALIZED, PERFECT PATH YOUR CHARACTER COULD TAKE TO REACH THEIR GOAL? IF NOTHING WENT WRONG, WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

LIST EVERYTHING THAT COULD POSSIBLY GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR CHARACTER REACHING THEIR GOAL.
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**Consider all possible outcomes**

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**Which one carries the most weight? Which one has the greatest impact?**
**STEP #4: PLOT IT OUT**

Plot out your story combining your character’s desires, their internal and external conflicts, and merge them together.

Start with the main beginning, middle, and end points. This is the overall evolution your character makes. How did they get from here to there?

**CHARACTER'S INITIAL DESIRE AT BEGINNING**

**CHARACTER CONFRONTS CRISIS**

**CHARACTER'S CHANGE IN THE END**
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**PLOT THE ROUGH OUTLINE**

Give yourself a rough roadmap to work from, some "headlights" of sorts. Use them as a guidance, but remember to stray from them if necessary! Let your characters be the true driver of the story.

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