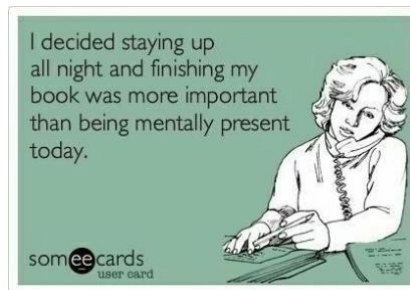


Writing Bingeable Characters

Instructor: Heather Demetrios

Email: heatherdemetrios@gmail.com

Website: www.heatherdemetrios.com



Course Description

We've all been there: characters we stay up until the wee hours with because we can't get enough of them. We miss our subway stops for them. We daydream about them on our commutes and write fanfic about them in our heads while riding elevators, shopping for groceries, and working out. (Scratch that last one - we don't need to exercise because these characters raise our heart rate just fine, thankyouverymuch).

In this course, we'll be looking at the elements of the binge-worthy character: what makes them so delicious? WHY DO WE SHIP THEM SO HARD? Most importantly, how can we make our own characters just as addictive? We'll go over the basics of constructing your own binge-able characters and how to put them all together to create stories worthy of all-night read-a-thons: protagonists, love-interests, villains, secondary characters (aka sidekicks and hype crews). This six-week class has you covered and will get your readers burning the midnight oil in no time.

Our Trust Fall

In order to create a community of trust, any writing shared by classmates is for the group's eyes only. Please do not share other people's work with individuals outside our workshop. Please keep all conversations in our group private, as well. All materials for this course are for your eyes only and are copyright. Please do not post, upload, or share them with others.

Course Overview

This syllabus is a work-in-progress. I will be providing additional activities as we go along, depending on what our cohort needs.

Over the course of the next month you will be:

- Working on your Oh So Secret writing exercise that you'll be building over the course of the next few weeks. This will be a scene you work on week by week that includes all your major characters.
- Reading and analyzing a binge book you are re-reading....and possibly diving into Casey McQuiston's *Red, White, & Royal Blue*. I encourage you to write your own annotated bibliography of what came up for you in this reading (This is explained in the How To Read Like A Writer PDF).
- Listening to the weekly audio lecture & working through Binge Factor worksheets to identify what makes stories and characters binge-worthy for YOU. If you're learning in community, you'll share your learnings in the group discussions. If you're flying solo for the course, you're welcome to check in with me via email to share what's come up for you.
- Working on weekly writing exercises (Oh So Secret project), as well as optional extension exercises.
- In community: Participating in discussion during each week's Zoom Q+A's (recorded for anyone who can't make it).
- Each week may include short reading assignments that support the lecture and writing exercises. If you can't get to all of it, no worries! Go at your own pace.

Reading

You will be re-reading a binge read of your choice and, if you so desire, reading and analyzing *Red, White, & Royal Blue*.

There may be short craft selections to support the lecture material and the writing you'll be doing. This is TBD depending on the group's needs.

Weekly Assignments

Though we don't have an actual class, Mondays will be the day that I send new material for the week.

On Fridays, I'll be sending the recording of the Thursday Q+A and any extra goodies.

Week 1: The Binge-Worthy Protagonist

:: Writing ::

- Please send Heather a one-page introductory email (heatherdemetrios@gmail.com). Let me know what you're writing, where you're from, what brought you to the course, where you're at with your writing, and some of your favorite binge reads.
- Oh So Secret Part I: Your Protagonist's Secret (see worksheet – includes listening to short guided visualization)
- Binge Factor Worksheet Part 1
- Reading Notes for your binge re-read

:: Reading ::

- Reading Like A Writer PDF
- Your binge re-read
- There are optional links to check out on the portal

:: Extension Activity ::

- Casting Call! Create a Pinterest collage of your protagonist. Include ANYTHING that you feel could relate to your character, including pics of your ideal actors for the role (at least how they look, even if their acting isn't right for the part). You can check out mine for ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/hdwriter/>
- Write an annotated bibliography of your favorite, most binge-worthy book.
- Secret Sidewriting

Week 2: The Binge-Worthy Crew

:: Writing ::

- Oh So Secret Part II: Co-Conspirators (see worksheet)
- Binge Factor Worksheet Part II: Assembling The Crew
- Reading Notes

:: Reading ::

- Your binge re-read

:: Extension ::

- Casting Call! Create a Pinterest board for all your major secondary characters (your "crew"). Include things that the crew does together and any in jokes you think they might have.
- Secret Sidewriting

Week 3: The Binge-Worthy Love Interest & Your Process Archetype

:: Writing ::

- Oh So Secret Part III: The Love Interest
- Binge Factor Worksheet Part III
- Your binge re-read Reading Notes

:: Reading ::

- Binge re-read
- Heather's Process Archetype PDF (on portal) – Which one are you?

:: Extension Activities ::

- Casting Call! Create a board for your love interest and the romantic relationship in your story.
- Secret Sidewriting
- Add the activities for your process archetype to your list of sidewriting and methods for getting in flow and unstuck

Week 4: The Villain We Love To Hate

:: Writing ::

- Oh So Secret Exercise Part IV
- Binge Factor Worksheet Part IV
- If you're done with your binge re-read, take a stab at writing an annotated bibliography for it.

:: Reading ::

- Check out 5-Star reviews of your binge re-read on Amazon & Goodreads: What's the common binge factor?

:: Extension Activities ::

- Casting Call! Create a board for your villain.
- Secret Sidewriting

Week 5 : The Binge-Worthy Sakes & Obstacles

:: Writing ::

- Oh So Secret Part V: Begin writing your final scene (see worksheet)
- Binge Factor Worksheet Part V

:: Reading ::

- Chapter 1 of *The Hunger Games* PDF
- Unlock Your Novel Workbook PDF
- Heather's Post on "How To Write A Bingeable Chapter" (on portal)

:: Extension Activities ::

- Secret Sidewriting

Week 6 : Revising Upping The Binge Factors In Your Story & Method Writing

:: Writing ::

- Write your final scene
- Binge Factor Worksheet Part VI: Final Takeaways For Your WIP + Revising Your Characters

:: Reading ::

- Assorted Method Writing material on portal from Heather

:: Extension Activities ::

- Secret Sidewriting
- Revision Materials

:: Post-class extension activity::

- Do Annotated Bibliographies of the books you read from here on out. Begin really reading like a writer!
- Create Goodreads list of your fave bingeable reads and keep it up. What are the binge factors? How can you learn from these books?
- Keep working with the Unlock process as you go
- Consider going deeper into understanding your process with Heather's You Have A Process method
- Try out the exercises in Heather's 31 Days of Writing Workbook
- Attend a Well Gathering for extra support