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Jade Eby

author's note

the basics

characters

place/setting

symbols/objects

misc questions



How do you become a great storyteller?

You don't need an MFA degree to do it.

And you don't need to take a bunch of writing classes or read a bunch of writing craft books either.

You already have what it takes to be a great storyteller.

What you need is:

- Time
- Patience
- Work
- Practice

And studying.

You need to study storytelling. And you need to do a lot of it.

Luckily, that's why I created this guide to help you do exactly that.

In my 20 years of studying great storytellers, I've learned that the best thing I can do to improve on the craft of storytelling is to consume and analyze what works in other stories.

There's no shortcut, no easy route, and no other way to do it.

But that's also the fun of it!

Using this guide, get ready to consume and engage in all forms of storytelling and explore what makes a story work or not work in your eyes.

This guide was originally created as a companion for the episode, "How to Be a Great Storyteller" of my podcast The Rebel MFA Way Podcast. <u>Check it out for more information and examples in real time.</u>

Good luck and happy studying!

part

the basics

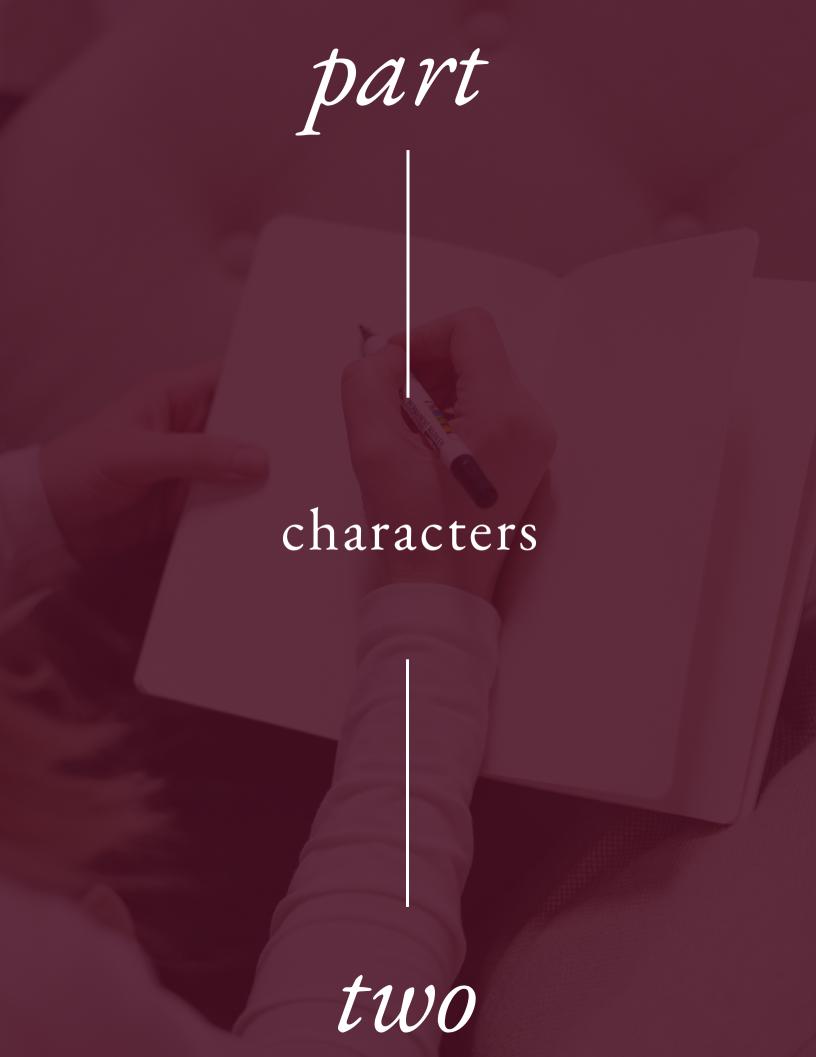
one

What is this story saying or what is it really about?

What role/purpose are the characters fulfilling? Are they interesting?

What's working in the story?

What's not working in this story?



What is the main character's biggest emotional wound or conflict?

avoid about that emotional wound or conflict?

What does the main character fear or

believe about the wound or conflict?

What lies does the main character

want throughout the story? (Go deeper than surface level here.)

What does the main character really

Did the character change throughout the course of the story? How?

If not, why do you believe there was no change?

Repeat for the antagonist and any major secondary characters.

part

place/setting

three

Is there a particular emphasis on a setting?

part

symbols/objects

four

Which symbols or objects were important to the main characters and why?

What meaning do you think the symbols or objects add to the story as a whole?

part

misc questions

five

What happened within the story that was unexpected? Why didn't you see it coming?

What is something in the story that worked really well and why did it work for you?

What's one thing that the story taught you about storytelling that you could take back to your own work?

Did this story or the storytelling fire you up in any way? Can you identify the reasons?

What has inspired you about the story or the storytelling?

What has you curious about the storytelling?

What are the biggest things you are taking away from this story or about the storytelling?

What else did you notice or have thoughts on?

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READY TO LEVEL UP?

JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY

Yay! You finished your first storytelling audit! Congrats!

Did you enjoy this exercise? Did it offer any clarity? Did you know that we do this type of work in my Rebel MFA Sanctuary all the time?

If you found this helpful, this is your invitation to join us in the Sanctuary where you'll be amongst other writers who are learning how to become the best writerly versions of themselves while they explore, excavate, and support each other along the way.

LEARN MORE