

Story Notes

The What

Writing a fiction novel or memoir means understanding what your story is about, an important first step to the creative process. Use this packet to capture your notes and stay focused as you write. Refer to them during editing to hone and clarify your message.

Experience

perception from personality

Learnings

expertise from experience

Major Truth

lesson pulled from knowledge



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The Details

When writing your fiction novel or memoir, it's helpful to have a clear path even if you don't create a formal story outline. You have your "what." Now it's time to fill out the rest.

The Conflict

problem, struggle, or issue

The Major Events

actions that inform plot

The Characters

major and minor actors



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The Details

The Themes

the central ideas to explore

The Message

the lesson for readers

The Structure

your storytelling approach



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The Details

The Target Reader

who should read your work

The Benefits

insights readers will gain

Working Title

how your story is known



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Chapter Outline

Now that you've worked through The What and all The Details, use this sheet as you construct working chapter outlines to keep yourself on theme and working toward a defined goal. Think of each chapter as a short story working collaboratively as part of a whole experience.

The Chapter Blurbs

what the chapter is about

The Focus

the key points to discuss

Takeaways

what readers carry forward

