
A SHORT GUIDE TO STORY AND PLOT

Ever wondered about the difference between story and plot? Let's sort that out first - I'll walk you through it.

The Basics: Story vs Plot

Think of story as what makes your character tick - their motivations, desires, and what gets them out of bed in the morning. Plot, on the other hand, is how you weave these character stories together to create something brilliant. Without proper motivation, even the most fascinating character is just taking up space on the page.

The Magic 10: Story Types

Writers love a good list, and over the years, they've whittled down all possible stories to these essential types:

1. The Romance (looking for love in all the wrong places)
2. The Unrecognised Virtue (the hidden gem waiting to shine)
3. The Fatal Flaw (pride comes before a fall)
4. The Debt That Must Be Repaid (paying the piper)
5. The Spider and the Fly (the ultimate game of cat and mouse)
6. The Gift Taken Away (losing what matters most)
7. The Quest (the classic adventure)
8. The Rites of Passage (growing up is hard to do)
9. The Wanderer (the eternal explorer)
10. The Character Who Cannot Be Put Down (the unstoppable force)

Crafting Your Story: A Quick Guide

Here's your five-step plan:

1. **Pin Down the Want:** What's driving your character? Make sure they're actively chasing something.
2. **Chuck in Some Obstacles:** What's getting in their way? Could be their own flaws, other characters, society, or the whole lot combined.
3. **Plan Their Growth:** How will they change? Maybe they need to face their fears or learn something new about themselves.
4. **Pick Your Story Type:** From our handy list of 10, which one fits best?
5. **Sum It Up:** Write a quick summary bringing all this together. Keep it snappy - about 100 words should do it.

The Bottom Line

Great stories come from understanding how your character's journey (the story) fits into the bigger picture (the plot). Get these basics right, and you're well on your way to writing something people won't be able to put down.