

# Using Scrum to Write your Novel

Presented by:

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Providing IT Services for over 20 years for:

- Project Management, Quality Assurance, Software Estimation & Process Improvements
- Agile/Scrum, Rational Unified Process (RUP), & Waterfall methodologies
- Logistics, Health-care, Insurance, Automotive, Telecommunications, Marketing & Financial applications

- ❖ Speaker & Author
- ❖ Agile Coach, Mentor & Trainer
- ❖ Scrum Master, Agile Team Facilitator
- ❖ Process Improvement Manager
- ❖ Quality Assurance Manager
- ❖ Development Manager
- ❖ Project Manager
- ❖ Metrics Specialist
- ❖ Software Estimation Expert
- ❖ Software Developer
- ❖ Quality Assurance Analyst
- ❖ Software Developer
- ❖ Biologist

# You are what you Do

# Writers Block or Just Can't Finish

- I write big lists but now I'm way behind
- I start big projects but never finish them
- I run out of steam, mid-project
- I have a thousand ideas on sticky notes, somewhere
- I'm really into New Year's resolutions, one day maybe I'll keep just one

**All Dressed up but No Place to Go!**

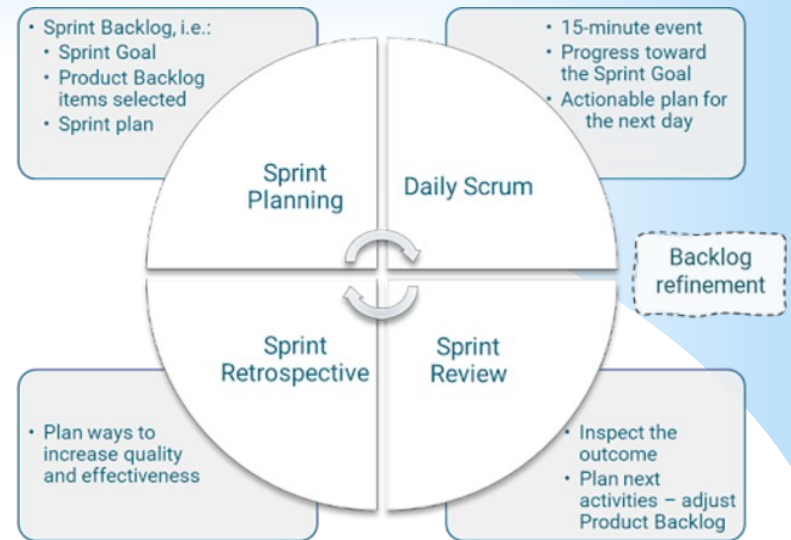
# Think Agile, Specifically Scrum

- Make small changes – avoid the big bang approach
- Commit to a periodic, consistent period of work
- Don't over commit on deadlines
- Avoid, I'll just blast through it in a marathon session
- Avoid, I'll make up for missed deadlines, later
- Don't over plan - Avoid long term Project Plans

**Stop Planning and Start Doing!**

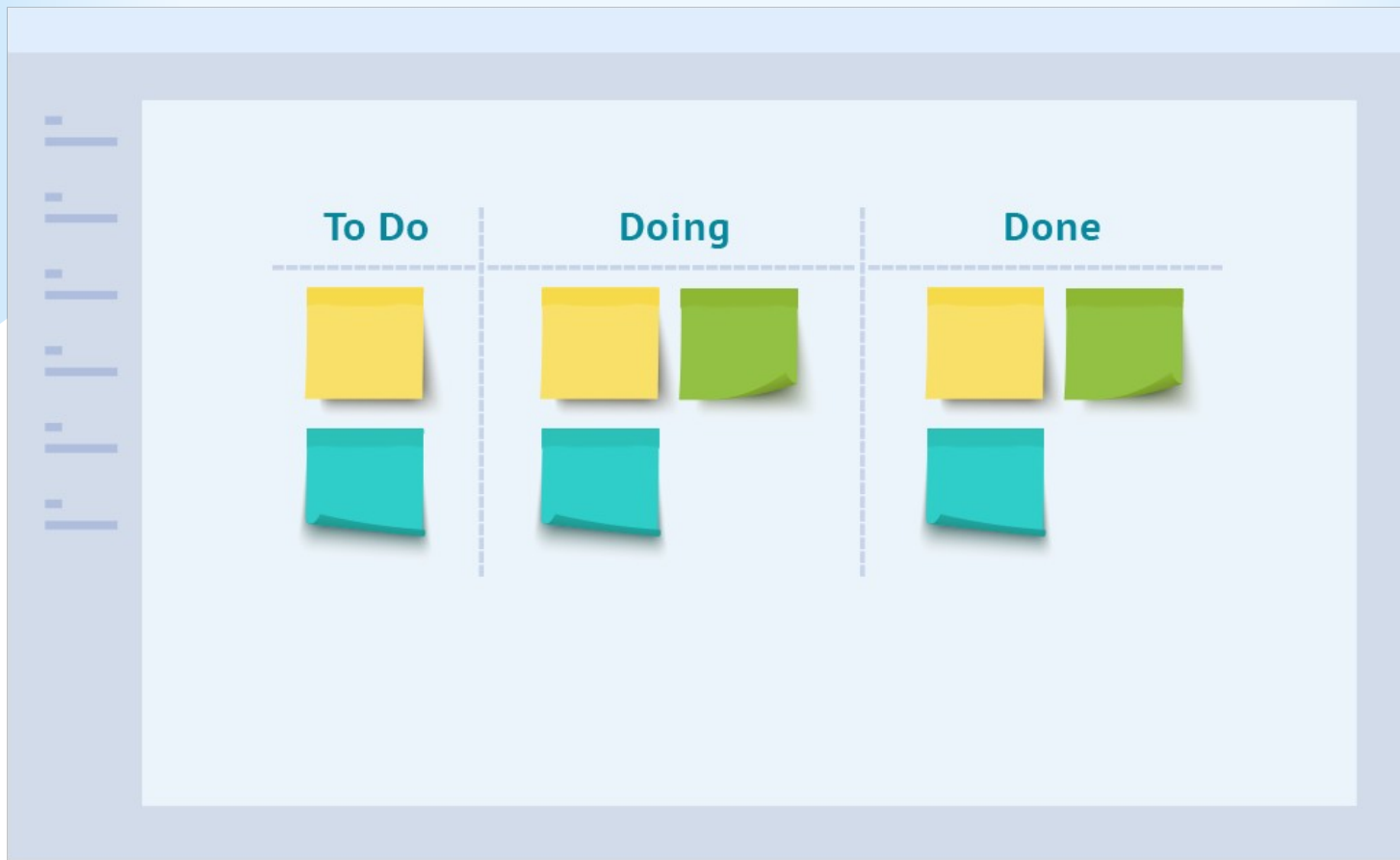
# Non-IT Definition of Scrum

- Create small, independent tasks
- Prioritize tasks
- Visually track work on a To-Do List
- Work in short fixed periods
- Identify and remove impediments
- Obtain feedback
- Identify areas of improvement
- Rinse, Wash, Repeat



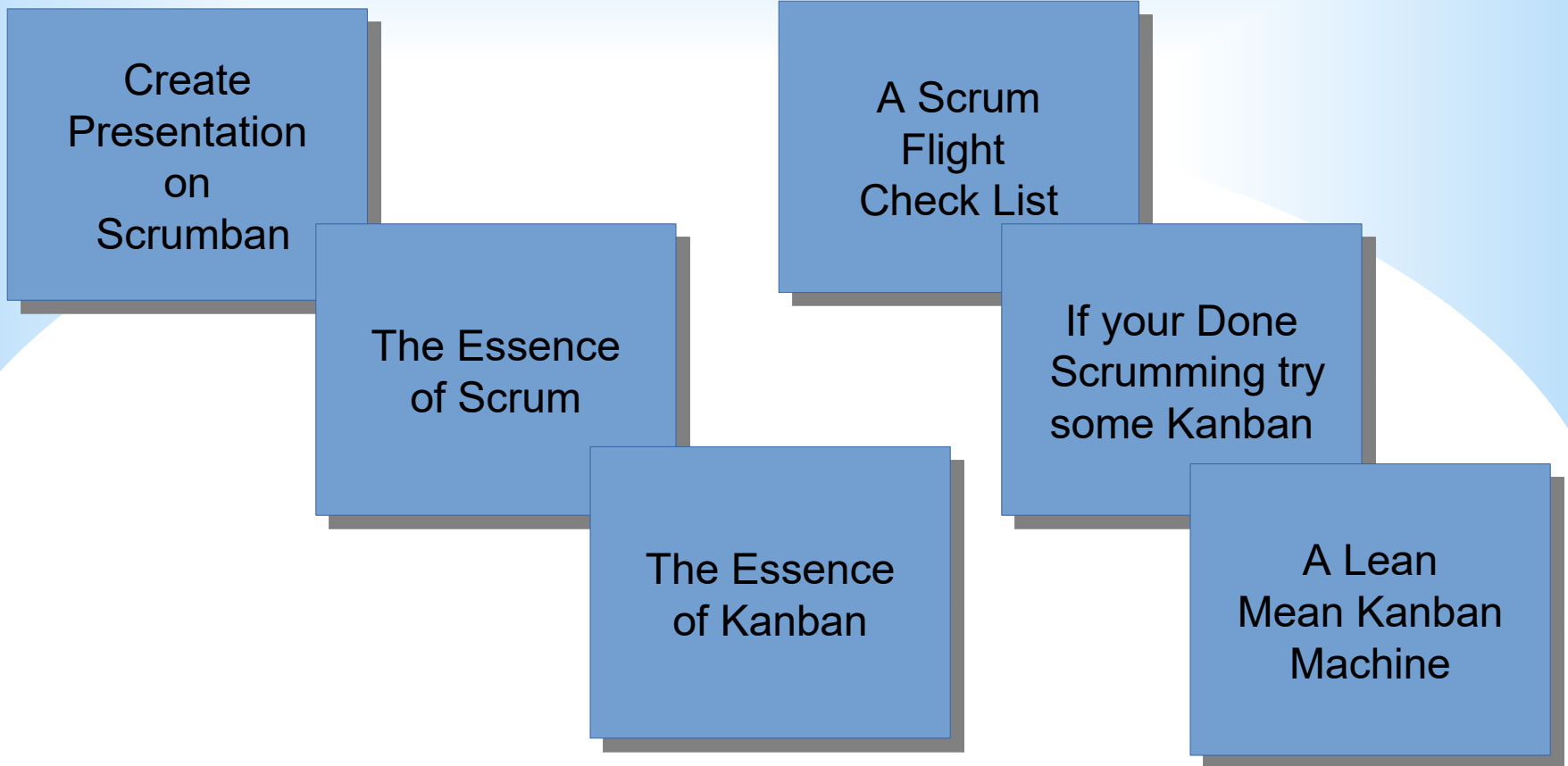
## How do I use that for my Book?

# Becoming Scrum



## Create a Kanban Board

# User Story



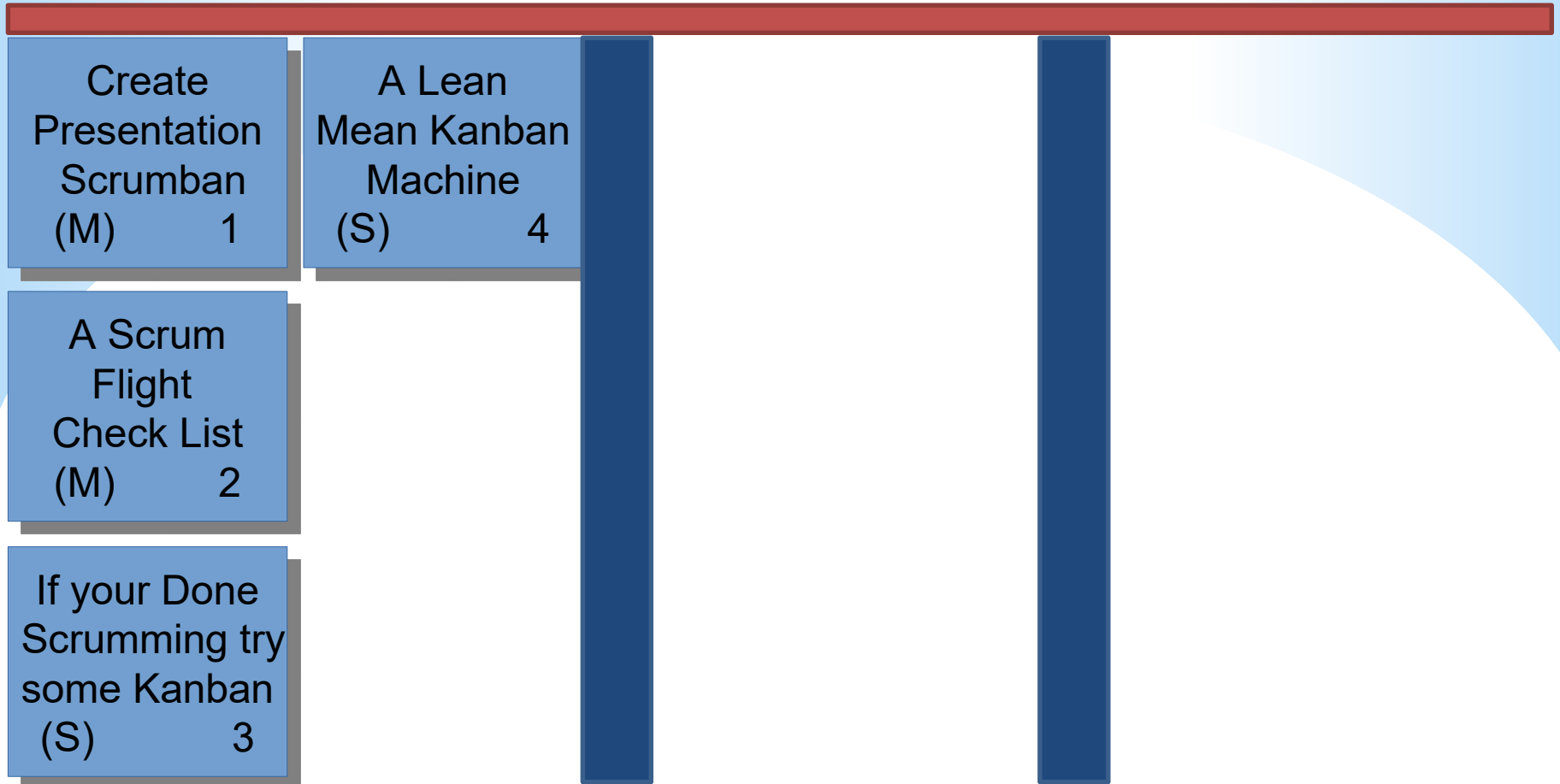
**What are those Task Cards?**

# Kanban Board

To Do

Work-In-Progress

Done



**Task Cards are User Stories!**

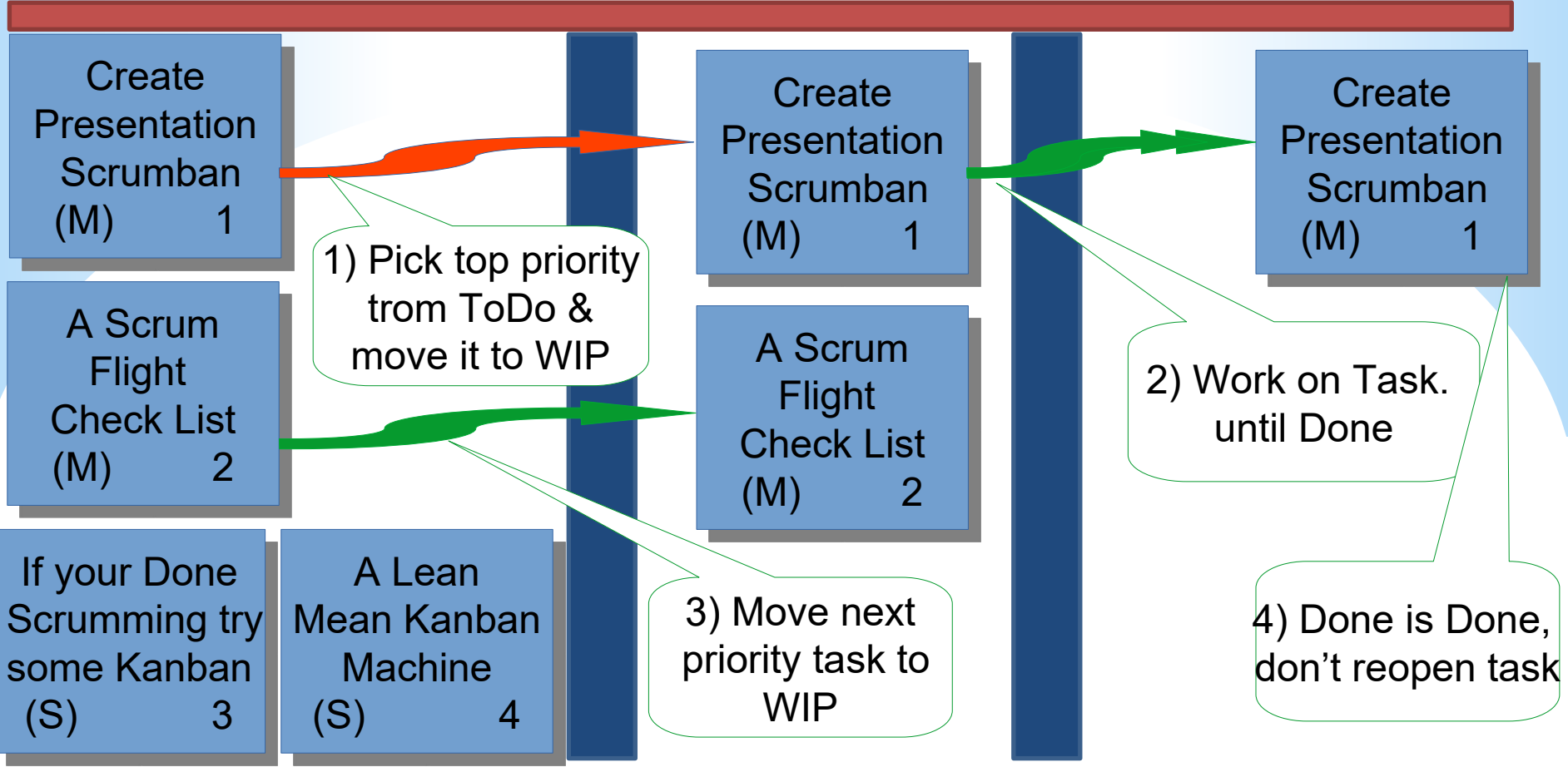


# User Story

To Do

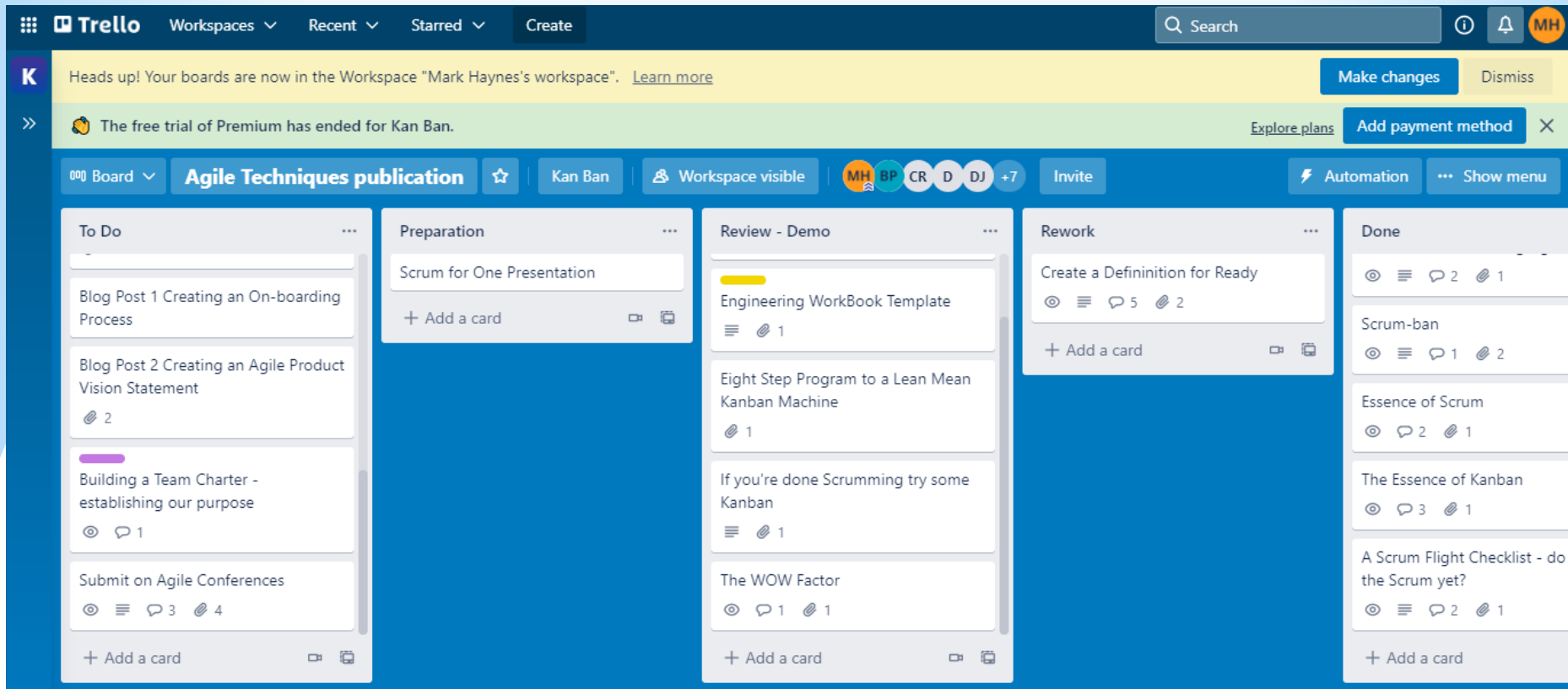
WIP

Done



## How Does It Work?

# Mark's Trello Kanban Board



## How do I use that for my Book?

# Five Open Source Alternatives

- Taiga – simple, clean interface, highly customizable
- Kanboard – minimal but includes many features
- Wekan – closely resembles Trello
- Restyaboard – Starts where Trello stops, with extended features
- TaskBoard – full-featured with filtering, comments, attachments, and standard Kanban boards

**Cheap is Good. Free is Better**

# User Story Elements

Card Title:	A short descriptive name. Try a Noun/Verb format.	Priority: 1,2,3,4	Estimate: S, M, L, EL
Description:	Brief description, that qualifies the name. Describes the event, conflict, plot, character etc.		
Acceptance Criteria:	Validation that User Story is complete. 1)Scene validated per Story Bible 2)Satisfies plot & character development goals		
Notes:	Add reviewers comments or ideas & notes about the User Story.		

## What are those Task Cards?

# Trello User Story

**Creating an On-boarding process** in list [Done](#)

**Description** [Edit](#)

On-boarding is a shared responsibility and the first step towards fostering an environment of continuous learning. Most of these activities should be accomplished during the first sprint. They should be time boxed, short and focused on one topic. These are also potential learning opportunity for the entire team to reinforce or expand of the team's knowledge base. As such, a few items may transcend the first sprint and become part of an on-going learning process. Consider bringing in guest speakers who have Subject Matter Expertise.

**Attachments**

- ODT** **On-boarding Guidelines vs 5.odt** [↗](#)  
Added Sep 12, 2020 at 10:09 AM - [Comment](#) - [Delete](#) - [Edit](#)
- ODT** **EK Edits On-boarding Guidelines vs 4dj.odt** [↗](#)  
Added Sep 7, 2020 at 1:06 PM - [Comment](#) - [Delete](#) - [Edit](#)
- ODT** **EK Edits On-boarding Guidelines vs 4.odt** [↗](#)  
Added Sep 6, 2020 at 10:55 AM - [Comment](#) - [Delete](#) - [Edit](#)

**SUGGESTED** [⚙️](#)

- [👤 Join](#)
- ADD TO CARD**
- [👤 Members](#)
- [🏷️ Labels](#)
- [☑️ Checklist](#)
- [🕒 Dates](#)
- [📎 Attachment](#)
- [🖼️ Cover](#)
- [🔧 Custom Fields](#)

Add dropdowns, text fields, dates, and more to your cards.

[👤 Upgrade](#)

**POWER-UPS**

## It's Easy! It's Free!

# The Sprint

- \* A short time interval to do useful work
  - \* Not a schedule or a detailed outline
- Consider your capacity to produce useful work:
- \* Full-time writer - maybe 2 to 3 weeks
  - \* Part-time writer - maybe 1 to 2 months
  - \* Mine is about one month

**Be Consistent. Be Repeatable.**

# Sprint Planning

- \* **Purpose: Plan your activities for the next Sprint**
- \* **Determine your capacity - how many tasks can you accomplish during a Sprint**
- \* **Identify your list of prioritized task cards and add them to your ToDo List**

**Realistically how much can you do**

# The Daily Stand-up

- \*Purpose: identifies impediments and obtain possible solutions
- \*Key questions:
  - \*What do you plan to work on?
  - \*What did you do previously?
  - \*What will you do today?
  - \*What are your impediments?
- \*Do Daily Stand-up as frequently as time permits
- \*This is not a Book Club or a Writer's Group
- \*I do mine every Sunday

**Encouragement not Cheerleading**



# The Review

- \* It's about gathering feedback on work you intend to publish
- \* Select your reviewers based on their knowledge & experiences
- \* Consider their feedback and make updates
- \* Reviewers are your consumers, they may be: Beta Readers, editors, or Publishers
- \* Still not a Book Club or a Writers Group

**Solicit Feedback from your Stakeholders**

# The Retrospective

- \*It's about gathering actionable feedback on your process
- \*Happens at the end of every Sprint
- \*Ask three questions:
  - \*What worked well?
  - \*What didn't work well?
  - \*What processes do I plan to change”
- \*Consider inviting those who attend your Daily Stand-up and Review
- \*Still not a Book Club or a Writers Group

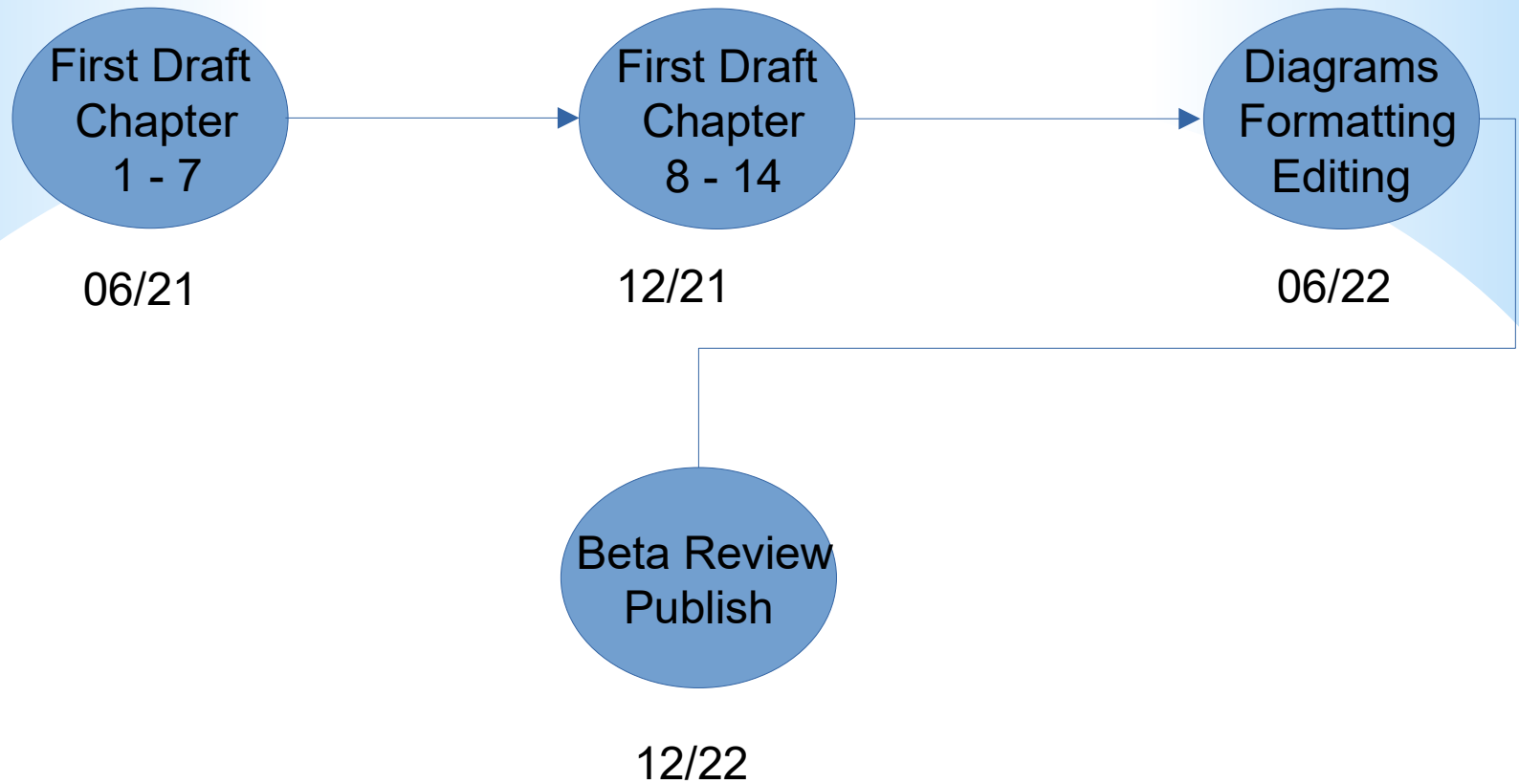
**How is it working for you?**

# Milestones & Roadmap

- \* Milestones are goals you set for yourself
- \* It's a marker for a stage in your project
- \* A Roadmap is a more detailed visualization of upcoming sprints
- \* These are your goals, not a detailed schedule
- \* Consider reviewing them with your Reviewers, Writers Group or Book Club

## Getting from here to there

# Creating Milestones



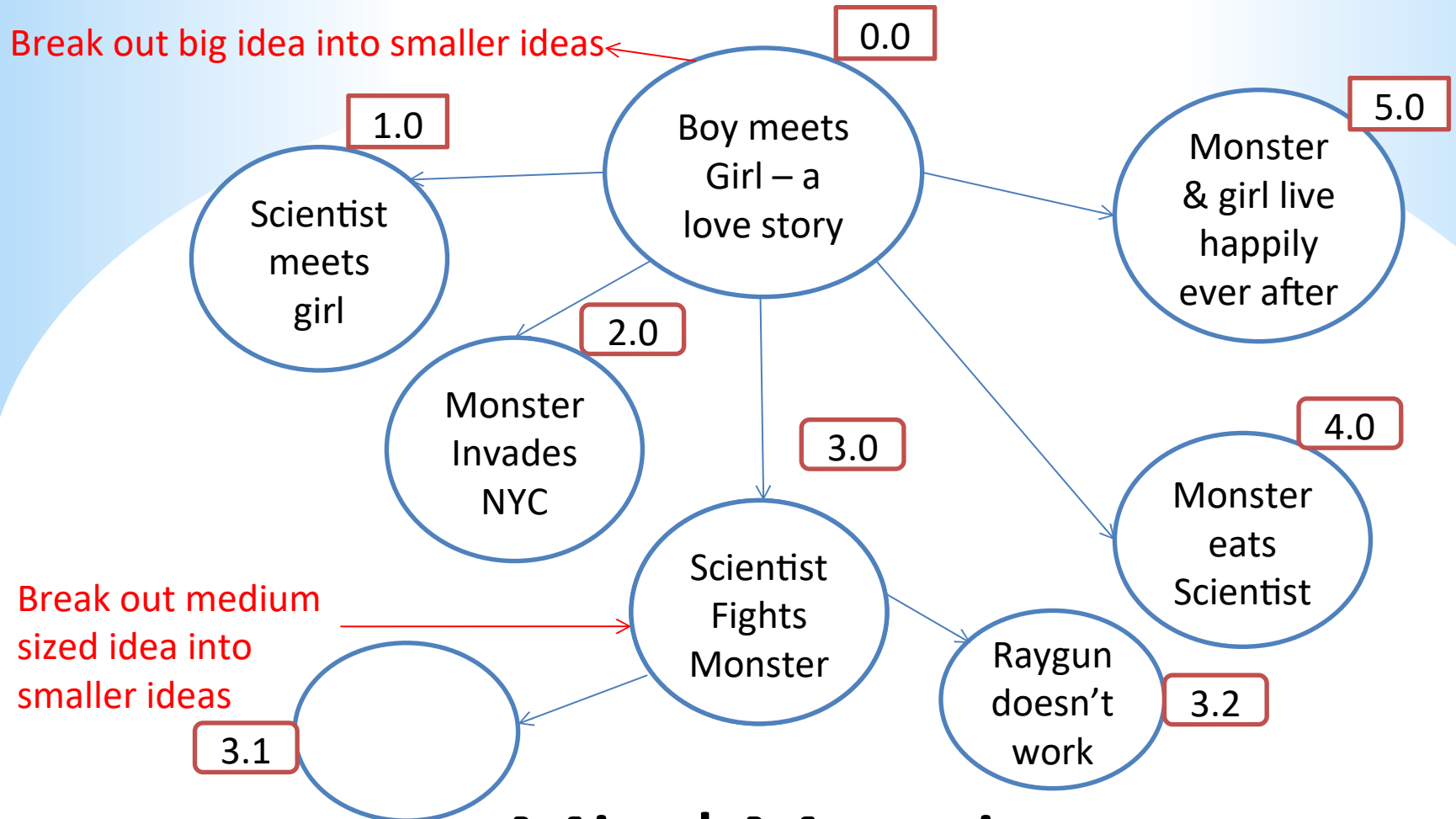
**Guidelines not a Project Plan**

# User Story Mapping

- \*Visual exercise that helps you develop your work products - identify a list of Tasks
- \*Consider what technique suits you best and modify it for your process:
  - \*Plot focused - Consider Mind mapping
  - \*Character focused - Consider using Personas
- \*Personas are detailed, synthetic biographies of characters
- \*Consider reviewing the results with your Reviewers, Writers Group or Book Club

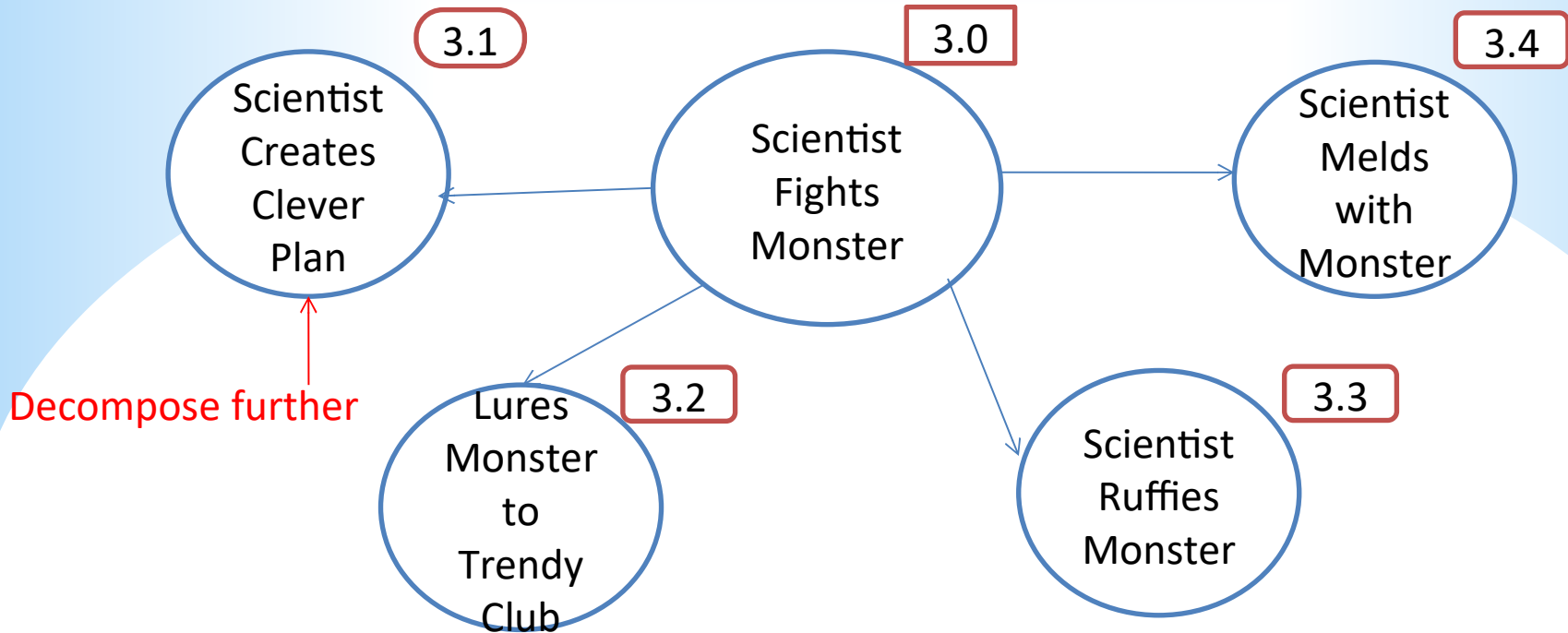
## Flesh out your story

# User Story Mapping



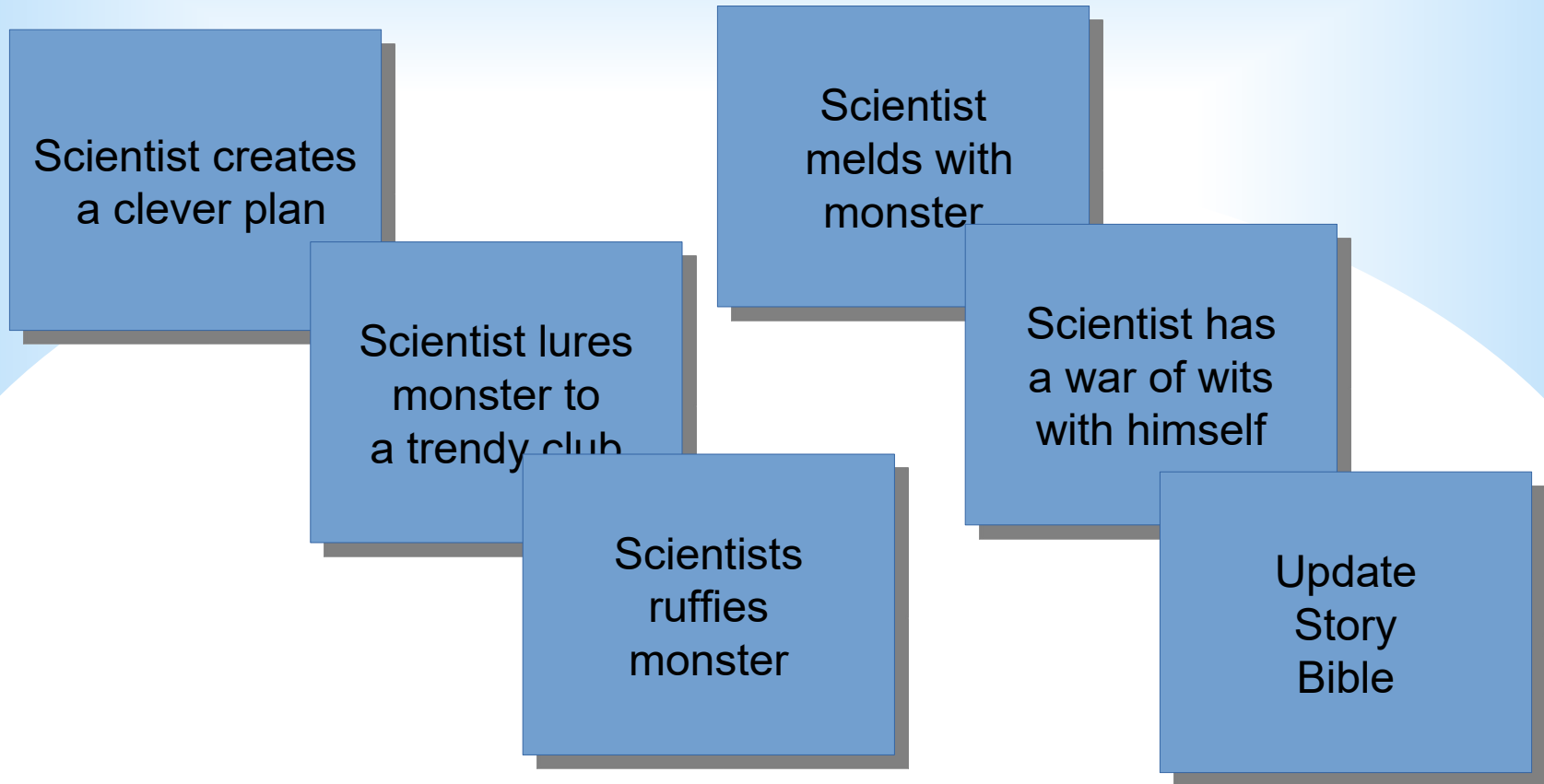
## Mind Mapping

# Herr Beethoven what are you doing?



I'm decomposing!

# User Stories



**So that's how I get those Task Cards?**



# Planning Canvas - Roadmap

Month 1

Month 2

Month 3

Create  
Presentation  
Scrumban  
(M) 1

A Scrum  
Flight  
Check List  
(M) 2

Pretty good  
prediction of  
work effort

Present at  
CincyDeliver  
(S) 3

If your Done  
Scrumming try  
some Kanban  
(S) 4

Fair prediction  
of work effort

A Lean  
Mean Kanban  
Machine  
(S) 5

Hit or miss,  
leave some  
wiggle room

## How much can you do in a month?

# A Few Links

- <https://opensource.com/alternatives/trello>
- Taiga <https://www.taiga.io/> customizable
- Kanboard <https://kanboard.org/>
- Wekan <https://wekan.github.io/>
- Restyaboard <https://restya.com/board>
- TaskBoard <https://tasksboard.com/>
- <https://writingcooperative.com/scrum-your-writing-process-a809e59bc692>
- <https://karlatipton.com/scrumyournovel/>

**Just to get you started**