

A GUIDE TO **DEVELOPMENTAL** **EDITING**

*Develop your story's foundation
BEFORE an editor checks*



GUIDE INCLUDES:

- Development **Questions** For:
 - Chapters
 - Characters
 - Scene Environment
- Development **Outlines** For:
 - Main Concepts for Novel
 - Plot, Subplots, and Conflicts
 - Monster Creation
 - Worldbuilding
 - Character Development
 - Character Background
 - Character Stat Blocks
 - Character Growth
 - Timeline
 - Scenes
 - Environment
- Chapter **Checklists**

QUESTIONS FOR EACH CHAPTER

Question	Yes or No	Revision Plan
Is the opening scene enticing?		
Is there a good balance between dialogue, descriptions, and action?		
Has enough background been covered in previous chapters to understand future scenes?		
Do the contents of the chapter fit the plot?		
Is there tension or significance in every scene? Are there any unnecessary/filler scenes?		
Does this chapter or scene progress the story? A character's development?		
Are there scenes that create plot holes?		
Are the characters acting as they should?		
Is the POV clear?		
Is there something or someone driving the scene forward?		
Does the chapter have a cliffhanger? A good ending to keep the readers wanting more?		

QUESTIONS FOR CHARACTERS

What is their relationship to the MC?	Which character is the antagonist? Are there multiple? *Note: the antagonist can also be a place, an idea, rules of society, etc.
What is their relationship to other characters?	How will the actions of the MC help or harm other characters?
Which characters do they get along with?	What does the character add to the story?
Will the relationship between characters change throughout the book?	Do their actions fit their personality? Do they act out-of-character at certain times?
Will the relationship between characters change throughout the series?	Do your characters receive different reactions from people? (i.e. soldier reacts differently than a civilian to the Queen)
What are the strengths of each character?	How do your characters respond to others? Do they have pet-peeves or trauma that might change their response?

QUESTIONS FOR CHARACTERS

What are the weaknesses of each character?	What are their favorite things? Would other characters know this information? Which characters would know?
Will these weaknesses change? Will they become strengths?	How do your characters perceive others? How are your characters perceived by the general public, allies, enemies, and family?
Will their weakness lead to their downfall?	How do your characters respond to getting physically hurt?
What lessons might your characters learn? How many times does it take for them to learn? (each instance should have a different reaction to show growth).	How do your characters respond to being emotionally manipulated?
Which events will impact their actions and how?	Will your readers like or dislike this character? Do you want them to like or dislike this character?

QUESTIONS FOR SCENE ENVIRONMENT

Can the environment help or harm your characters?
How could this change the way that they act?

Why are your characters there?
What is the reason for using this environment versus a different one?

What sensory stimulation will the characters experience in this environment?
(What will they taste, smell, see, hear, and feel?)

Will leaving the environment be difficult?

Are the characters exposed to harsh weather?
How does the weather help or harm your characters?
Are your characters prepared to be in this environment?

What do the characters gain by being in this environment?
What could they lose?

Are there any hidden objects for your characters to find?

Are there any monsters or antagonists searching for your MC?
How does the environment help or hinder them?

Are there characters who thrive in this environment? Are there characters who are miserable and want to go home? Will this change?

MAIN CONCEPTS FOR NOVEL

Plot



Style



Characters



Background

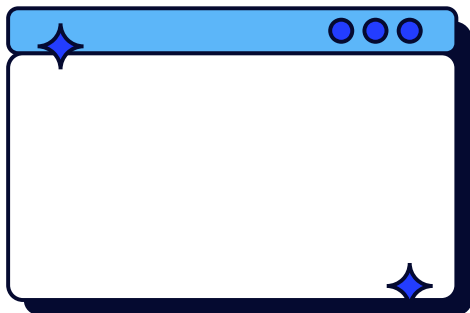
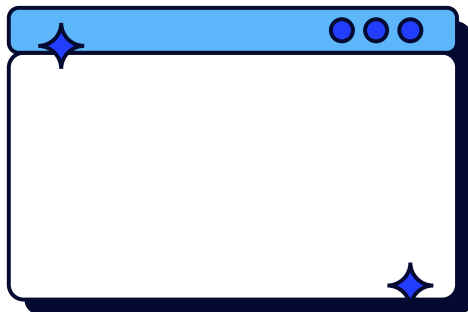


Main Plot

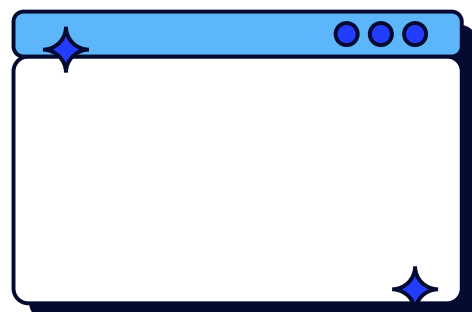
Subplots

Conflicts

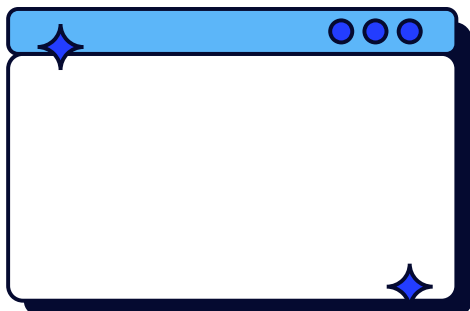
Act 1

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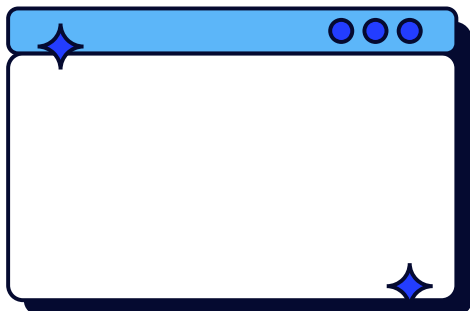
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Act 3

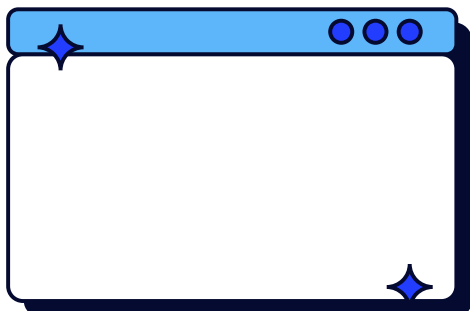
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Act 4

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Which Characters are Involved:

Act 5

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MONSTER CREATION

Questions	Yes or No
Is it dangerous?	
Is it intelligent?	
Is it clever?	
Does it hunt alone or in numbers?	
Does it have special hunting tactics?	
Can it heal?	
Can it communicate?	
Is it nocturnal? Diurnal?	

Image
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PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

SPECIAL TRAITS/ABILITIES

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WORLD BUILDING

Rules	Limitations	Magic	Races

Monsters	Dress and Costume	Setting/Environment

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CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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Character:

Character:

CHARACTER BACKGROUND

Character:

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CHARACTER STAT BLOCKS

Scale: 0–10

Character Names-->				
Physical Strength				
Magical Strength				
Hand-to-Hand Combat				
Swords/Blades				
Archery				
Guns				
Machine Handling				
Animal Handling				
Battle Experience				
Battle Strategy				
Endurance				
Speed				
Intuition				
Book Smart				
Street Smart				

CHARACTER STAT BLOCKS

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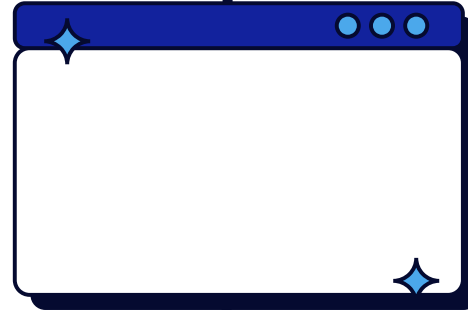
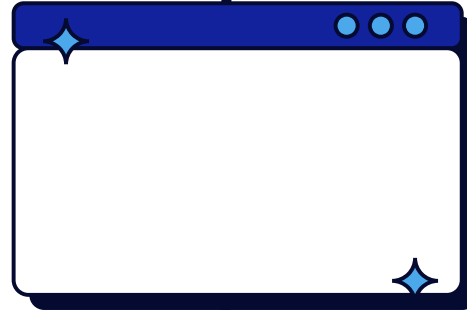
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Battle Strategy				
Endurance				
Speed				
Intuition				
Book Smart				
Street Smart				

CHARACTER GROWTH

	<u>Character 1</u>	<u>Character 2</u>	<u>Character 3</u>
Act 1			
Act 2			
Act 3			
Act 4			

CHARACTER GROWTH

Character 4

Character 5

Character 6

Act 1

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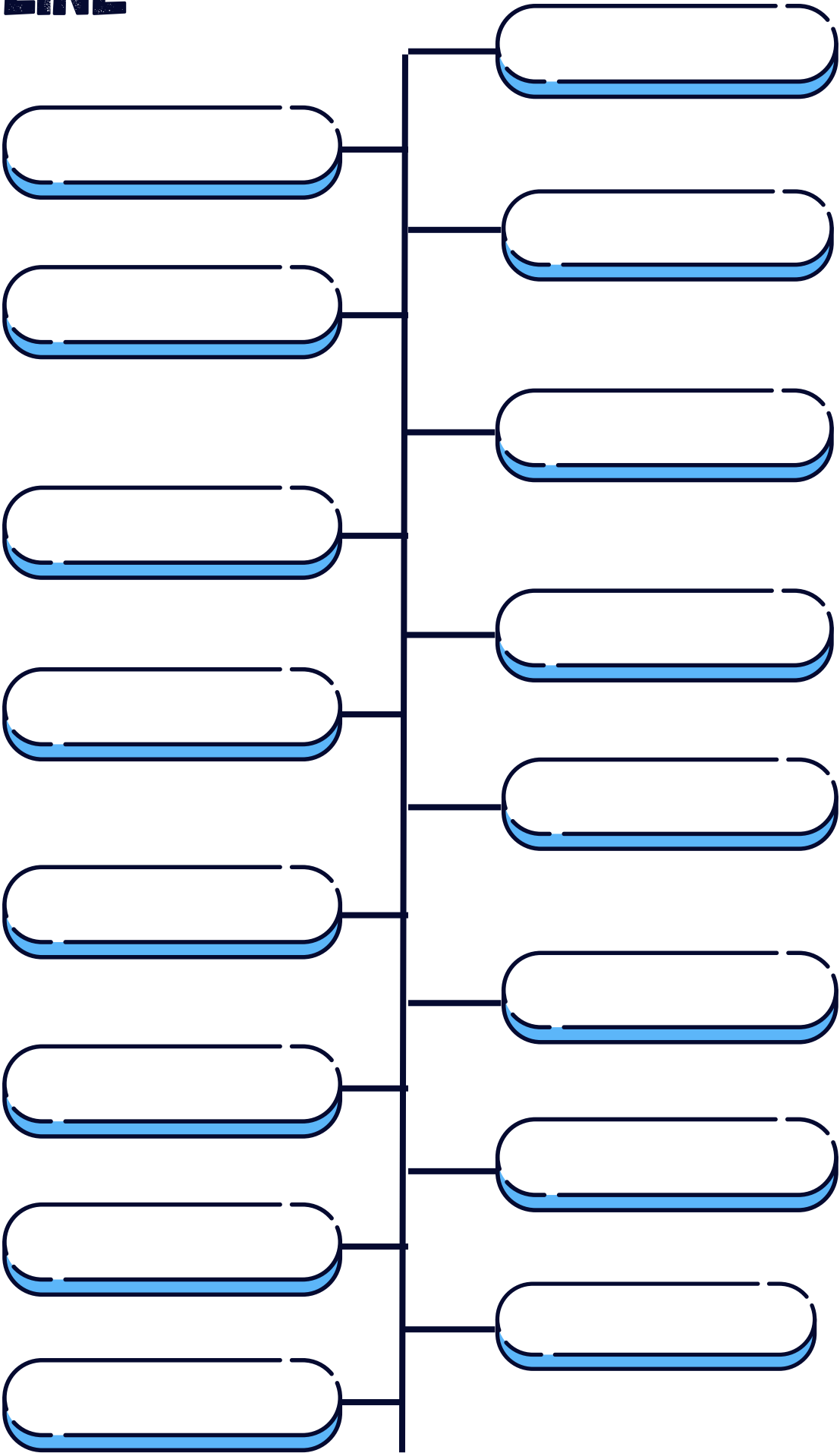
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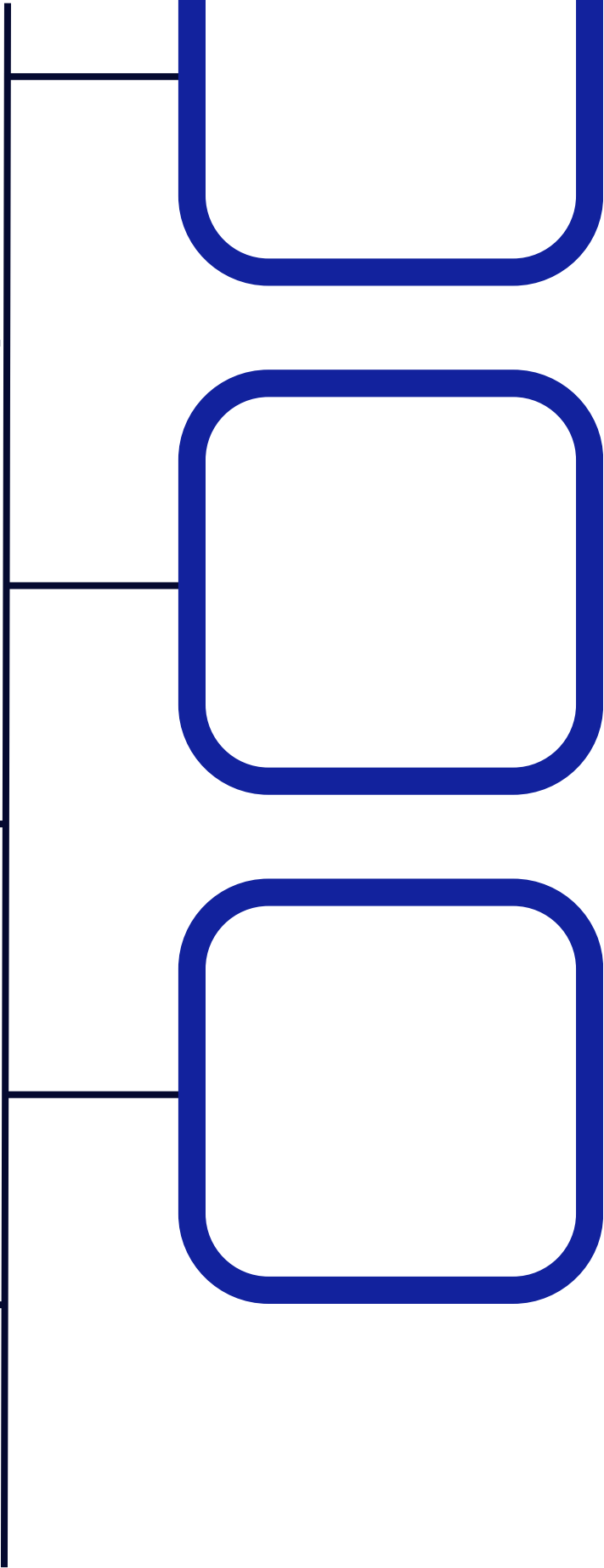
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TIMELINE



TIMELINE



SCENES

Description

Goals

1	
2	
3	

1	
2	
3	

1	
2	
3	

1	
2	
3	

SCENES

Description

Goals

1	
2	
3	

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3	

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SCENES

Description

Goals

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3	

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2	
3	

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2	
3	

1	
2	
3	

ENVIRONMENT

Description

Senses

Senses	Description
Taste	
Smell	
Hear	
Touch	

ENVIRONMENT

Description

Senses

Senses	Description
Taste	
Smell	
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Touch	

ENVIRONMENT

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ENVIRONMENT

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CHAPTER CHECKLIST

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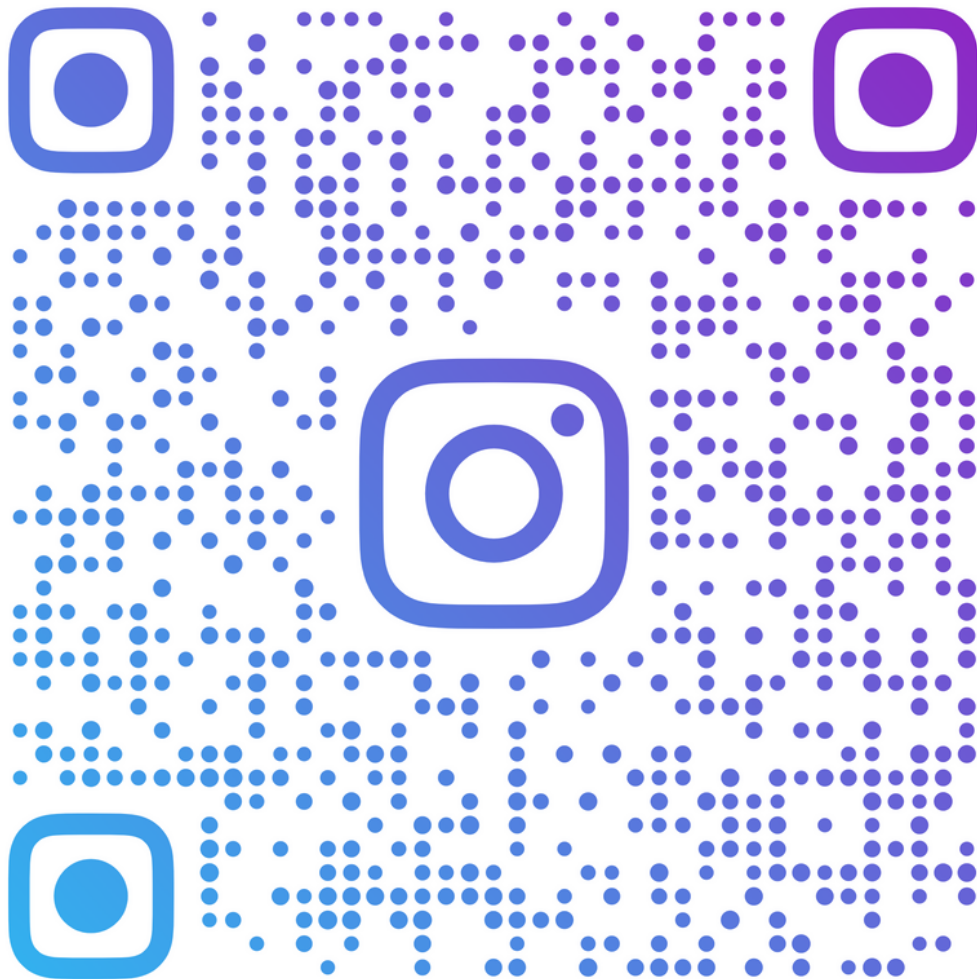
CHAPTER CHECKLIST

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