# Plot Development Worksheet

Use this worksheet as a flexible guide, tweaking it to suit your novel’s structure and needs. By filling it out, you’ll have a clear roadmap to develop a compelling and cohesive story!

## Story Premise

* What is your story about in one sentence? (E.g., “A young farmer must defeat a tyrant to save their village.”)
* What is the central theme of your story? (E.g., love, revenge, redemption, freedom.)
* What genre(s) does your story fit into?

## Protagonist’s Goal and Motivation

* Who is your protagonist?
* What do they want most in the story?
* Why do they want it?
* What is at stake if they fail?

## Conflict and Antagonist

* What is the primary conflict? (Person vs. person, self, society, nature, etc.)
* Who or what is the antagonist?
* What are the antagonist’s motivations?
* How do their goals clash with the protagonist’s?

## Inciting Incident

* What event sets your story in motion?
* How does this change the protagonist’s life?
* What choices do they have to make?

## Key Plot Points

**Act One: Setup**

* Introduce the world, protagonist, and conflict:
* What’s the protagonist’s normal life like?
* How is this disrupted?
* What’s the first turning point that propels them into the main story?

**Act Two: Rising Action**

* Describe 2-3 major obstacles or events that escalate the stakes:
* Obstacle/Challenge #1:
* Obstacle/Challenge #2:
* Midpoint Twist (a revelation or event that shifts the story):

**Act Three: Climax and Resolution**

* What is the climax (the most intense, decisive moment)?
* How does the protagonist confront their greatest challenge?
* How is the conflict resolved?
* What is the final outcome for the protagonist and other key characters?

## Subplots

* What secondary stories or character arcs are present?
* Subplot #1:
* Subplot #2:
* How do these subplots connect to the main plot?

## Character Growth

* How does the protagonist change by the end of the story?
* What lessons do they learn?
* How do their relationships evolve?

## Worldbuilding

* Where does the story take place?
* Describe the physical setting(s):
* Are there any rules (e.g., societal, magical, or scientific)?
* How does the setting influence the story?

## Pacing and Tension

* Where are the high-stakes moments in your story?
* Do the stakes consistently rise toward the climax?
* Are there moments of relief to balance tension?

## The Ending

* Does the story end with a resolution or open questions?
* How does the ending reflect the story’s theme?
* What emotions do you want readers to feel when they finish?

## Refining Your Plot

* Does each scene serve a purpose in advancing the plot or character development?
* Are there any loose threads or unanswered questions?
* Does the story align with the protagonist’s arc and central theme?