# Romance Plotting Worksheet

It’s structured to guide you through the key elements of a romance, including character development, plot progression, and emotional arcs. This worksheet is flexible, so feel free to adjust sections as needed to suit your story. Check out my [character development worksheet](https://ekediting.com/free-downloads) for even more guidance on developing the protagonists and antagonist.

## Story Premise

* What is your story about in one sentence?
* What are the central themes of your story? (e.g., love, revenge, redemption, freedom.)

## Protagonists

* **Protagonist 1**
  + Name:
  + Age:
  + Appearance:
  + Personality:
  + Goals (What do they want?):
  + Flaws/Fears (What holds them back?):
  + Strengths:
  + Backstory (What shaped them?):
  + Romantic Conflict (Why is falling in love a challenge for them?):
* **Protagonist 2**
  + Name:
  + Age:
  + Appearance:
  + Personality:
  + Goals (What do they want?):
  + Flaws/Fears (What holds them back?):
  + Strengths:
  + Backstory (What shaped them?):
  + Romantic Conflict (Why is falling in love a challenge for them?):

## Conflict and Antagonist

* What is the primary conflict? In other words, what do the characters want/need?
  + External:
  + Internal:
  + What is getting in the way of those wants/needs?
  + The stakes: What happens if the characters fail?
  + What deeper message or question does the conflict explore?
  + How does the conflict force the protagonists to grow?
* Who or what is the antagonist?
  + Name:
  + Age:
  + Appearance:
  + Personality:
  + Goal:
  + Flaws/fears:
  + Strengths:
  + Backstory:
  + What makes them compelling? (What makes them relatable, formidable, or memorable?)
  + What are the antagonist’s motivations?
  + How do their goals clash with the protagonists’ goals?

## Setting/Worldbuilding

* Primary Location:
* Other Key Locations:
* Are there any rules (e.g., societal, magical, or scientific)?
* How does the setting influence the story?

## Tropes

* What romance tropes are present? (e.g., enemies to lovers, fake dating, second chance, etc.)

## Romance Arc/Key Plot Points

**Act One: Setup**

* *First Meeting/Inciting Incident*
  + What pushes them together?
  + Where/how do they meet?
  + What is their first impression of each other?
  + What stakes are introduced for each character?
  + What were their normal lives like before this?
  + How is this disrupted?
  + What choices do they have to make?

**Act Two: Rising Action**

* *Growing Closeness:* Moments that build their connection. These should be major obstacles or events that escalate the stakes and build their connection. Consider these questions through each event: What are they learning about each other? What changes in their relationship? How do they feel about it?
* *Midpoint Twist* (a revelation or event that shifts the story):
  + What external obstacles arise?
  + What internal conflicts deepen?

**Act Three: Climax and Resolution**

* *Darkest Moment*
  + What event causes them to separate (or doubt their love?)
  + Why do they believe the romance is doomed?
* *Climax/Resolution* 
  + What triggers their reunion or realization of love?
  + What is the climax (the most intense, decisive moment)?
  + How do they overcome their internal conflicts through this moment?
  + How is the major conflict resolved?
* *Happily Ever After (or Happy For Now)*
  + How does the story end?

## Subplots

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