

How to Write a Novel



LESSON 12

Worksheets

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Answering the Seven Research Questions

Whenever possible, avoid Eating the Elephant. Focus on getting just the answer to the question the scene will use.

To know what you're going to need, first through all seven questions in the group worksheet, and write down the KINDS of information you're going to need for the book.

Once you have that figured out, use stand-alone single sheets to ask one specific scene-related question, and to write down that scene's answer.

And remember that it's totally acceptable to write what you think you know (and be wrong) as long as you're going to put your story in front of a reader who DOES know before you send it to an editor or publish it.

On the individual research pages, class your question as Worldbuilding, Set Design, Language Style, Language Creation/Usage, Magic/Science System, Biology Construction, or Story Development.

Then write down the most specific question you can, and research and write down your answer to JUST that one question.

Holly

BUNDLE 1: First, in general terms that relate to the book you're writing answer each of the following seven questions.

Worldbuilding: *What do I have to have in place to write in this world?*

Set design: *What is this book's world going to look like, feel like, taste like, smell like, sound like?*

BUNDLE 2:

Language style: *How do I as the writer want the narrative to sound?*

Language creation/ usage/: *How will my various characters sound when they speak?*

BUNDLE 3

Magic/science systems development: *How do the critical processes my characters use to get work done... work?*

Biology construction: *How do my characters survive in their world?*

BUNDLE 4

Story development: *How does my conflict create obstacles that my characters must then solve, and how can they solve these conflicts in a workable, interesting, surprising fashion?... Without cheating?*

Project _____

P. _____

Research Classification: _____

Specific Question, as limited as possible:

Research answer, just what you'll use for this scene:

Research Classification: _____

Specific Question, as limited as possible:

Research answer, just what you'll use for this scene:

Research Classification: _____

Specific Question, as limited as possible:

Research answer, just what you'll use for this scene:

Research Classification: _____

Specific Question, as limited as possible:

Research answer, just what you'll use for this scene:
