Story Structure Worksheet Skyler Madison Fontana, PhD.

Start asking yourself these questions and see how your story starts to unfold.

Finding the Story Premise:

What is the situation….Who is the main character….What is the goal….Who is the opponent….What is the conflict…. The disaster, climax…. and the resolution….?

What is your story's genre? *(For example: science fiction, fantasy, romance, suspense, literary fiction)*

Your protagonist:

1. *Who is your main character?*

2. *What is your protagonist's main goal in the story***?**

Story stakes:

1. *What will your protagonist gain if s/he succeeds in reaching the goal?*

2. *What will s/he lose if s/he fails?*

Obstacles:

1. *What are some possible problems that the protagonist must overcome in order to reach the goal?*

Setting:

1. *What is the location and time period of your story?*

Your antagonist:

1. *Who is in your protagonist's way?*

Antagonist's goal: *In most cases, the antagonist will have a goal that's incompatible with the protagonist's. Only one of them can succeed.*

1. **Antagonist's motives** *(What are the story stakes for your antagonist? Why is his/her goal important to him/her?)***:**

Your protagonist's friend/ally/helper: *Who could help your protagonist reach his/her goal?*

Premise: Summary of your story:

Your story is about a character (the protagonist) who wants (an important goal) who is motivated by (why), but encounters conflict (the antagonist) which is preventing or obstructing the goal.

_____ (Name of character) wants _____ (important goal) because _____ (why it's important/motivation), but faces _____ (conflict or antagonist preventing it. The stakes rise when _____. The character overcomes the conflict by _____.

The story is resolved when _____ and the character learns _____.