

WORKBOOK 01

Writer's Identity Declaration WORKBOOK

Your novel begins with you.

THIS WORKBOOK BELONGS TO

WORKBOOK 01 · WRITE YOUR FIRST NOVEL

The Writer's Identity Declaration

Your novel begins with you.

DESIGNED FOR

The Write Your First Novel course

FORMAT

Fill-in module workbook

YOUR OUTCOME

Create your Writer's Identity Declaration

INSIDE THIS WORKBOOK

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Purpose

WHY THIS WORKBOOK

Your novel begins with you. Before you build characters or plot, you must build the identity of the person writing the book.

This declaration anchors your commitment, strengthens your confidence, and sets the tone for your creative practice.



ABOUT THE COURSE

How to Write Your First Novel

This workbook is the first in a series of workbooks and worksheets designed as a complement to the **How to Write Your First Novel** course.

It is a beginner-friendly, confidence-building mini course that guides aspiring writers from confusion to clarity.

It demystifies the novel-writing process, teaches foundational storytelling craft, and provides a step-by-step pathway to develop a compelling idea, build believable characters, structure a plot, and begin writing with momentum.

Designed for first-time novelists who feel overwhelmed or unsure where to start, this course transforms vague desire into a workable plan and a strong first draft.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Introduction

*Understanding your **why** as a writer is the single most powerful way to shift from wanting to write a novel to actually becoming someone who can.*

Before plot, characters, or world-building, the writer must build the inner foundation that makes creative work possible. The Writer's Identity Workbook gives you structure, clarity, and emotional grounding — something most beginners need but rarely know how to create.

IT WILL HELP YOU

- ✓ Claim your identity as a writer, instead of waiting for permission or perfection.
- ✓ Understand why your story matters, which fuels motivation when the writing gets hard.
- ✓ Build confidence and consistency — two qualities that determine whether a novel gets finished.
- ✓ Create a personal creative contract, turning vague desire into a real commitment.
- ✓ Replace fear and self-doubt with clarity and direction, so you can begin writing with momentum.

For a new writer, this process is transformative. It turns the fragile dream of "maybe one day I'll write a book" into a grounded, empowered reality:

I am a writer, and I'm writing my novel now.

PART A · YOUR WHY

Who are you *becoming*?

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS WORKBOOK

01

Read the prompts slowly.

02

Answer without overthinking — write what feels true.

03

Craft your declaration using the template.

04

Read it aloud.

1

Who are you becoming as a writer?

What kind of writer do you envision yourself becoming? Are there any authors whose writing and writing style inspire you, and why?

2

Why do you want to write?

Do you feel a deep calling? Do you have a natural flair? Have you got a message to share with the world? Why now?

3

What are you committing to?

4

How will you show up as a writer in this world, and what do you believe about your creativity?

PART B · CREATIVE CONTRACT

Your creative *contract*

Explore the following prompts sincerely — they form your creative contract with yourself.

5

I write because ...

6

The story I am carrying matters because ...

7

The writer I am becoming is ...

8

My creative strengths are ...

9

My creative fears are ...

10

I commit to showing up by ...

11

My inspiration to write comes from ...

12

I believe in my creativity because ...

13

I give myself permission to ...

PART C · THE TEMPLATE

Build your *declaration*

The following prompts make up your Writer's Identity Declaration. Fill in each line, then bring them together on the next page.

14

I, [your full name], am a [genre] writer.

15

I write because ...

16

My story (or stories) matter because ...

17

I am becoming a writer who ...

18

I commit to writing [name of your novel, or the books in your series] and give myself permission to ...

PART D • PULL IT ALL TOGETHER

Now write *yours*

Bring your answers together into one declaration. Keep it visible throughout your writing journey — print this page and pin it where you write.

SAMPLE DECLARATION

"I am a writer. I write because stories help me understand the world. My story matters because it carries truth, imagination, and heart. I am becoming a writer who shows up with courage and curiosity. I commit to writing consistently, even when it feels messy. I give myself permission to be imperfect, playful, and brave."

I AM A WRITER

My Writer's Identity *Declaration*

SIGNATURE

DATE _____

YOUR WORKBOOK JOURNEY

Workbooks & worksheets in this course

Complete each one within the course. Tick it off as you finish — every box is a step closer to a finished first draft.

01

The Writer's Identity Declaration

YOU ARE HERE

WORKBOOK

☐

02

The Story Seed

WORKBOOK

☐

03

The Protagonist Profile

TEMPLATE

☐

04

Plot Mapping

WORKBOOK

☐

05

Immersive World-Building Snapshot

WORKBOOK

☐

06

Scene Starter

TEMPLATE

☐

07

Revision Roadmap

WORKSHEET

☐

COURSE MODULES

Track your progress

Eighteen modules across three parts. Tick each module as you complete it.

MODULES

Part One

- ☐ The Writer's Mindset
- ☐ Creative Identity
- ☐ Finding & Refining Your Novel Idea
- ☐ Building Believable Characters
- ☐ Plot Architecture
- ☐ Story Mapping

MODULES

Part Two

- ☐ World Building & Story Settings
- ☐ Immersive Story Writing
- ☐ Story Mapping and Arcs
- ☐ Rule with Your Imagination
- ☐ Reinforce with Factual Research
- ☐ Write Your First Draft Fearlessly

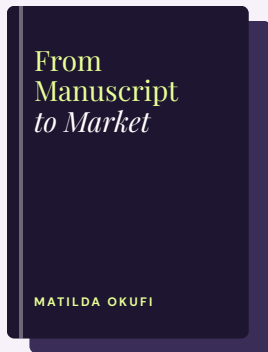
MODULES

Part Three

- ☐ Finding Readers – Pre-Edit
- ☐ Editing and Proofreading
- ☐ Platforms and Formats
- ☐ Where Is Your Audience?
- ☐ Your Author Persona
- ☐ All About Publishing

KEEP GROWING

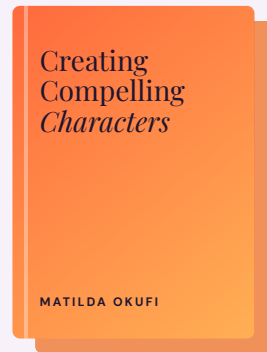
More from *The CopyShift Creatives*



BOOK

From Manuscript to Market

Explore all you need to know about traditional publishing, from finding an agent to cinching an editor, a book deal and all the in-betweens.



BOOK

Creating Compelling Characters

It's an art and a discipline to craft characters that readers keep thinking about long after the last page has turned. Learn the best tricks practised by the greats.

SNAP COURSE



Creative Writing for Juniors

SNAP COURSE

Creative Writing for Juniors

Created with young writers in mind, this snap course is colourful, engaging and a useful tool for those preparing for extended writing exams.

COURSE



Building Your Brand & Authority Accelerator

COURSE

Building Your Brand & Authority Accelerator

A course designed for thought leaders who want to establish their authority and credibility by consolidating their expertise and experience into a motivating book.

Find every book and course at thecopyshiftcreatives.com

IDEAS, FRAGMENTS, SPARKS

Notes

IDEAS, FRAGMENTS, SPARKS

Notes

WORKBOOK 01 COMPLETE

How's it going?

You have just completed the first in a series of workbooks for the **Write Your First Novel** course. How do you feel? Hopefully you have had some reflection and introspection on your 'why'.

As a writer, it is crucial that you understand what really motivates and inspires you to write — and that you make a mental commitment to see your writing projects through.

ONE WORD FOR HOW I FEEL

YOUR PROGRESS



Writer's Identity



Story Seed



Protagonist Profile



Plot Mapping



World-Building

Next in the series · Workbook 02

The Story Seed Workbook



I wish you the very best on your journey of storytelling.

Love, Matilda x

POET · WRITER · AUTHOR

Matilda Okufi

Founder & Lead Writer, The CopyShift Creatives and The Authority Atelier

I am passionate about storytelling. At work, my mission is to get more people to tell their stories — be it life stories, career journeys or fictional narratives.

This is the motivation behind the books I write, the events I run and the courses I create.

Love, Matilda x



WEBSITE



YOUTUBE