



WORKBOOK 04

Plot Mapping WORKBOOK

Structure your story with clarity and confidence.

THIS WORKBOOK BELONGS TO

WORKBOOK 04 · WRITE YOUR FIRST NOVEL

Plot *Mapping*

Structure your story with clarity and confidence.

DESIGNED FOR

The Write Your First Novel
course

FORMAT

Fill-in module workbook

YOUR OUTCOME

Create your story plot,
beat by beat

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Purpose

WHY THIS WORKBOOK

Laying out the story meaningfully is a crucial part of building it. Syncing timelines, keeping a good chronology, and linking people and places with the right phases of the character's arc are what make a story believable.

Structure your story with clarity and confidence.



HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Instructions

To get the best out of this worksheet, read and consider each prompt carefully. There's no right or wrong answer. Use your creative imagination to feel out your story. Dream within to envision your story and the many possible directions and endings it could go in.

01

STEP ONE

Complete each section.

02

STEP TWO

Keep your answers short, clear and sharp.

03

STEP THREE

Use your responses to build a complete plot map for your novel.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Introduction

A plot map is a simple, structured outline of your story's major events — a roadmap showing how your narrative moves from beginning » middle » end.

WHAT IS PLOT MAPPING?

- A simple, structured outline of your story's major events.
- A roadmap from beginning → middle → end.
- A tool that turns scattered ideas into a clear, organised storyline.

PLOT MAPPING

- Breaks your story into three acts: Setup, Confrontation, Resolution.
- Identifies key turning points: Inciting Incident, First Plot Point, Midpoint, Dark Night, Climax, Resolution.
- Aligns each event with your protagonist's goals, conflicts and transformation.
- Provides a visual or written guide you follow while drafting.

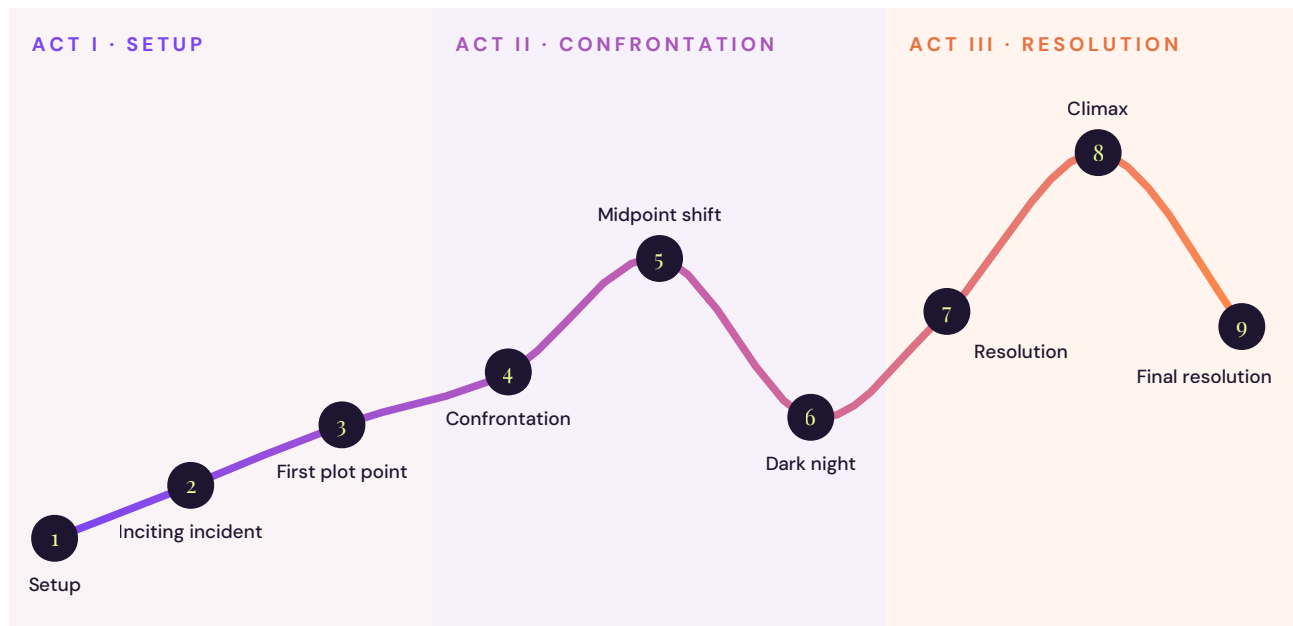
WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

- ✓ Gives you clarity, so you always know what happens next.
- ✓ Prevents overwhelm and mid-draft confusion.
- ✓ Strengthens pacing, tension and emotional impact.
- ✓ Keeps your story aligned with your protagonist's arc.
- ✓ Makes drafting faster, smoother and more intentional.
- ✓ Dramatically increases the likelihood of finishing your novel.

PLOT MAPPING ACTIVITY CORE

Nine beats, *three acts*

This activity helps you outline the major turning points of your story using the Three-Act Structure. By completing each section, you'll create a clear roadmap that guides your drafting and keeps your story emotionally and structurally strong.



Rising stakes ↑ Story time →

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read each beat description.
- Reflect on how this moment appears in your story.
- Write a short, clear entry for each beat.
- Keep your answers simple — you can expand later during drafting.
- Use the sample (Pearl's story) as a guide if needed.

PLOT MAPPING PROMPTS

Act I — *Setup*

1

Act I — Setup

Introduce your protagonist, their world, their wound, and what they want.

2

Inciting incident

The event that disrupts the protagonist's normal life and forces them onto a new path.

3

First plot point

The moment your protagonist commits to the journey and crosses a threshold they cannot undo.

PLOT MAPPING PROMPTS

Act II — *Confrontation*

4

Act II — Confrontation*The protagonist faces obstacles, rising stakes, and emotional challenges.*

5

Midpoint shift*A revelation, event, or turning point that raises the stakes and changes the protagonist's understanding of the situation.*

6

Dark night of the soul*The emotional low point where the protagonist feels defeated, ashamed, or convinced they cannot succeed.*

PLOT MAPPING PROMPTS

Act III — *Resolution*

7

Act III — Resolution*The protagonist confronts their greatest challenge and transforms.*

8

Climax*The final confrontation — internal or external — where the protagonist must make the defining choice of the story.*

9

Final resolution*The aftermath that shows who the protagonist has become and how their world has changed.*

WORKED EXAMPLE

Pearl's *plot map*

1

ACT I – SETUP

Pearl works multiple jobs, determined to escape poverty and build her own business. She avoids emotional connection and trusts no one due to past trauma.

2

INCITING INCIDENT

Charlie offers Pearl a genuine opportunity — business support, mentorship, or a job that could change her future. It's the first time someone has taken her seriously without exploiting her.

3

FIRST PLOT POINT

Pearl reluctantly accepts Charlie's help. This small act of trust shifts her world and commits her to a path she cannot easily reverse.

4

ACT II – CONFRONTATION

Pearl's business begins to grow. Her relationship with Charlie deepens. Her past resurfaces, threatening her progress and emotional stability.

5

MIDPOINT SHIFT

Pearl realises she has feelings for Charlie — and panics. She fears losing control and being hurt again. The emotional stakes intensify.

6

DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

Someone from Pearl's past reappears or a traumatic memory resurfaces. She believes she is broken, unworthy, and destined to repeat her past. She pushes Charlie away and considers abandoning her dream.

7

ACT III – RESOLUTION

Pearl confronts her past — emotionally or literally — and begins to forgive herself. She recognises that vulnerability is not weakness.

8

CLIMAX

Pearl must choose: run from Charlie and her future, or stay and embrace trust, love, and stability. She chooses to stay.

9

FINAL RESOLUTION

Pearl launches her business, builds a stable home, and accepts Charlie's love. She becomes independent and supported — free from the shame of her past.

YOUR TURN

Notice how every beat ties back to Pearl's wound, desire and transformation. Check your own map does the same.

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

WORKBOOK

☐

02

The Story Seed

WORKBOOK

☐

03

The Protagonist Profile

TEMPLATE

☐

04

Plot Mapping

YOU ARE HERE

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

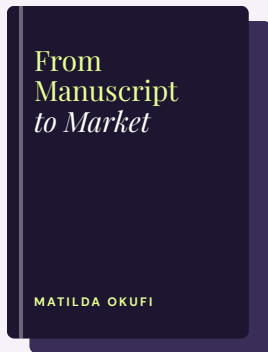
MODULES

Part Three

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

KEEP GROWING

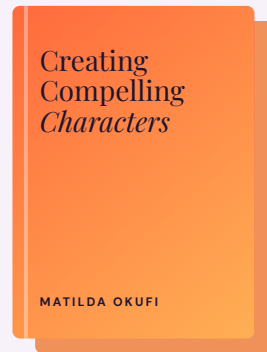
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IDEAS, FRAGMENTS, SPARKS

Notes

WORKBOOK 04 COMPLETE

How's it going?

You have just completed the fourth in a series of workbooks for the **Write Your First Novel** course.

Plotting the story always sparks your creative juices. It forces you to think imaginatively and to begin projecting the different twists and turns that will take place over the arc of the story.

You can imagine a finish line with a plot map — and as they say, if you can see it, you can achieve it.

ONE WORD FOR HOW I FEEL

YOUR PROGRESS



Writer's Identity



Story Seed



Protagonist Profile



Plot Mapping



World-Building

Next in the series · Workbook 05

The World-Building 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