

Story Brainstorming Questions

When you have a new story idea, these questions are meant to help you take it deeper.

Character Questions (for major characters)

- Who is my character?
- What is she named and why?
- If I had to describe her in one word, it would be:
- What's her family like?
- What does she value?
- What lie does she believe?
- Why does she believe that lie? What happened in her past that caused her to believe it?
- What is her main goal in the story?
- Why is she ideal for the journey and why is she not?
- Who are her allies and who are her enemies?
- What will my main character sacrifice?
- How does she need to change?
- What happens if she doesn't meet her goals? Why are her goals important? How can I make that worse for her? Who else could it impact?
- In what ways is she operating against society and in what ways is she operating within?
- What part of her past can come back to haunt her?
- What is her greatest fear?

Other Character Questions

- What does the antagonist want?
- Does my antagonist have a secret he's trying to keep?
- Who will make sacrifices for my main character throughout the story?
- What character could come out of the shadows and "shine?"

Story Questions

- What's the best place for the story to start?
- How do I think it will end? What is the climax?
- Does my story have a theme? Why does this book matter?
- What kind of hurdles will there be in the journey? How can I make these harder? How can I make them "cost" my main character more?
- What is my storyworld like? Are there political, historical, or environmental situations that might affect my character's journey?
- Is there magic in my story? If so, how does it work? What are the rules, costs, and limitations for it?