



JUST Write

for MIDDLE GRADE

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Plotting by Chapter

Use this chapter outline to see if your novel is keeping up a steady and exciting pace and introducing readers to all the necessary information. This outline template is based upon an 8-chapter novel, but feel free to add or divide chapters as needed.

- 1. Introduce the main character(s), setting and problem/goal. What is the inciting incident that shatters the old 'normal' way of life and starts it all?**
- 2. Who or what is getting in the way of the hero solving his/her problem or reaching that goal?**
- 3. Begin attempts to solve the problem/attain goal. First attempt doesn't work.**

- 4. First attempt leads to second attempt. Second attempt doesn't work – something gets in the way. This leads to either a new problem or the third attempt.**

- 5. What is the new problem? Will solving it create a way that the hero can also solve the first problem? Third attempt.**

- 6. Crisis/tension peaks – problem seems insurmountable, or goal seems unreachable. Then something happens – plot twist, surprise, discovery, change of plan.**

- 7. Hero must take a risk, make a choice or change his/her plan, which leads to solving the problem in a different or unexpected way. Solving the problem/conflict/reaching the goal now means what? What new problem is created?**

- 8. What was the point? What was learned? How has the hero grown or changed? What is the 'new normal'?**