Day One – God Created Me to be Creative!

Volunteer READ Gen. 1:1-2

- What was the earth like? _____
- What did Holy Spirit do? _____

Listen as Mesu READS Gen. 1:3-31 – What did God create on:

- Day 1: _____
- Day 2: _____
- Day 3: _____
- Day 4: _____
- Day 5: _____
- Day 6: _____

God is a God of _____, and we're made in His image.

Using the following components of story, in what order would you create a novel?

- ☐ Research
- ☐ Plotting
- ☐ Characters

For this class, we'll discuss your work in this order:

- Building W_____
- Respecting F_____ & L_____
- Forming C_____
- Developing P_____

Building Worlds

(Research)

1. Start with one, good _____
2. Find an adequate r_____ l_____.
   - Become friends with the r_____ l_____
3. Let the H_____ S_____ guide your research with your u_____ c_____.
4. Every story needs 3 elements (watch for these as you research):
   - I. A story-worthy m_____ c_____
   - II. The main character's (MC's) external g_____ & internal l_____
   - III. Gasp-worthy f_____ & l_____

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- What question will/did you start with for your research?
- Is there a research library near you? If not, brainstorm with your group other research options.
- Have you found good resources that might help others in your group?

Keep Your Fiction Facts Straight

How do you organize all this great research after you find it?

⇒ SCRIVENER – LitteandLatte ($60 per person for **lifetime w/free updates**): https://bit.ly/ScrivenerInfoWebsite
   - Templates for c_____ & p_____
   - Research section to add your own research templates:
     - T_____ (import jpgs w/ auto url)
     - M_____ (import jpgs w/ auto url)
     - S_____ (copy & paste w/ auto url)

⇒ ONENOTE – Microsoft 365 ($70 per person, per year; $100 1-6 people, **per year**): https://bit.ly/MSOffice365Pricing2024
   - N_____ – each book's title
   - S_____ – research categories w/in notebook
   - P_____ – specific names, topics or places w/in sections

Day Two – Respecting Firsts & Lasts

Say it with me: God Created Me To Be Creative!

"Writing" In the Bible:
- Authors mentioned in the Bible: Ex. 17:14 (author of Pentatuch); Ex. 32:16; Dt. 6:4-9; Josh. 18:8…**see graphic**.
- Number of biblical book authors who felt capable? _____

A Variation of First-Line Friday – With the Pentateuch…
- Volunteers to read one line from the 1st five books of the Bible?
  - *Pentateuch BCC*: A series of five books written by Moses, the self-proclaimed "humblest man who ever lived" and God's chosen *friend*. The series was written after sin entered the world by the only man who ever talked with God face-to-face—and survived.
- What is the _____ of each book?
- If you didn't already know content, would you keep reading?

- Volunteers to read last _____ from 1st five books?
- What do you know as the _____ of the book?
- Did it match the _____'s 1st line _____?

Necessary Components of First Page: (info from STC & ECoF)
- Hook with o_____ i_____.
- Quickly give reader an e_____ c_____.

Necessary Components of First Act: (approximately 20-25%)
- Show m_____ c_____'s normal life.
- Introduce other s_____ c_____ members.
- A subtle statement of the m_____ t_____.
- A clear understanding of the MC's e_____ p_____.
- The i_____ i_____ (changes their norm).
- A r_____ s_____ shows MC's reluctance to change.

Necessary Components of First Half: (approximately 26-50%)
- The MC is at the midpoint of his/her c_____ a_____.
- Weave together i_____ & e_____ c_____.
- Midpoint is either f_____ v_____ or f_____ d_____.

Essential Components of Last Act (Act 3) – 3 Parts: (STC & PVC)
- The m_____ o_____ t_____.
- The f_____ has f_____ subpoints.
  - G_____ the t_____.
  - E_____ the p_____.
  - H_____ t_____ s_____.
  - D_____ d_____ d_____.
  - E_____ the n_____ p_____.
- The f_____ i_____.

Essential Components of Last Chapter:
- The c_____ i_____ mirrors opening hook.
- MC's i_____ c_____ resolved (good or bad).
- MC's e_____ c_____ resolved (good or bad).
- Book's t_____ has been clearly shown throughout the book.

Essential Components of Last Line:
- Can be n_____ or d_____
- Can be a s_____, s_____ or the MC's f_____.
- Must both s_____ and l_____ with the reader.

Perfect Example of Respecting Firsts & Lasts = Matthew 26
- **Read first line – Matthew 1:1**
  - Tone?
  - Theme?
- **Read** final scenes Act 2; break into Act 3 – **Matthew 26:36-39**
  - D_____ n_____ of the s_____ pushed Him to the upcoming, c_____, which is an i_____ d_____ the HE must act upon.
- **Skim section headings Matthew 26:40-28:15** to see the d_____ (or "fallout" of climax).
- **Read last paragraph – Matthew 28:16-20**
  - Does it match tone and theme of f_____ s_____?
  - Does it summarize m_____ & t_____ of book?
  - Does it point to the MC's (hopeful) f_____?
  - Is it m_____?

Day Three – Forming a Story-Worthy "Hero"

Say it with me: God Created Me To Be Creative!

Volunteer to **Read Psalm 139:1**- "You have s_____ me, Lord, and you k_____ me."

Circle the things the Creator searches & knows in Psalm 139:2-5…

²You know when I sit and when I rise;

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;

you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue

you, Lord, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before,

and you lay your hand upon me.

Form MC's with P.O.W.E.R.

- P_____
- O_____
- W_____
- E_____
- R_____

Why do all this work BEFORE starting to write—or even plot?

STC author, Jessica Brody, says: *"Before you tackle any of the beats, figure out the **three components of your story-worthy hero**…Only when you've got a good idea of who your hero is will you be able to figure out what kind of transformative journey they require."*

What are the STC 3 essential components of every MC?

1. A p_____ (or flaw that needs fixing)
2. A w_____ (or goal that the hero is pursuing – external)
3. A n_____ (or life lesson to be learned – internal)

Determine POV: Through whose lens will your story be told?

- 1ˢᵗ-person pronouns: _____
- 2ⁿᵈ-person pronouns: _____
- 3ʳᵈ-person pronouns: _____

OneNote Character Card:

(I've adapted the character cards in *You Can Write A Novel* by James V. Smith, Jr.; Writer's Digest Books, 1998, pp. 25-26—see handout.)

- Columns = Single story:_____; Series: _____
  - Headings
    1) N_____, M_____, D.O.B.
    2) B_____
    3) C_____ S_____
    4) S_____
  - Photos (beneath headings)
- Rows
  - Eyes
  - Hair
  - D_____ p_____ f_____
  - H_____ and/or B_____
  - C_____ and/or P_____ traits
  - B_____ info

Also in the "Building Worlds" stage, I prepare a spreadsheet (Excel or Google sheets) with LOTS of "sheets" within it:

- A_____ and H_____ sheet
- T_____
- C_____ l_____
- S_____ by c_____
- G_____
- Q_____
- L_____ for m_____

Day Four – Developing Your Plot

Say it with me: God Created Me To Be Creative!

In Susie May Warren's, *The Story Equation*, she shares the secret to her compelling characters & riveting plots in 6 essential ingredients:

1. The MC's greatest f_____
2. A l_____ the MC believes to be true
3. The MC's f_____ (focused on in the story)
4. The MC's c_____ v_____
5. The MC's overwhelming w_____
6. The big w_____ that drives the entire story

Check out Susie's My Book Therapy for more amazing writing help!

Plot & Character should always d_____ s_____!

- It's why I love Jeff Gerke's *Plot vs. Character*!
- If you're techy & like a variety of templates, try Plottr!

Save the Cat: Writes a Novel by Jessica Brody.

1. *O_____ I_____ (up to 1%)
2. *T_____ S_____ (5%)
3. S_____ (1-10%)
4. *C_____ (10%)
5. D_____ (10% - 20%)
6. *B_____ I_____ 2 (20%)
7. *B S_____ (22%)
8. F_____ and G_____ (20% - 50%)
9. *M_____ (50%)
10. B_____ G_____ C_____ I___ (50% - 75%)
11. *A_____ I_____ L_____ (75%)
12. D_____ N_____ of the S_____ (75% - 80%)
13. *B_____ I_____ 3 (80%)
14. F_____ - _____ Parts (80% - 99%)
15. *F_____ I_____ (99% - 100%)

Let's use STC beat sheet on the bestselling Book of all time: *The Bible*

1. O_____ I_____ (Genesis 2:15-18)
   - I. Who is our MC? Who does the main action in the first chapter?
   - II. What is the genre?
2. T_____ S_____ (Genesis 3:15)
3. S_____ (Genesis 3:16 - Exodus 1)
4. C_____ (Exodus 2 – 13:16 – consecrating 1st born)
5. D_____ (Exo.32:10; 33:3; Num.14:12; 16:12; Dt.9:14)
6. B_____ I_____ 2 (1 Sam.12:12-15)
7. B S_____ (1 Sam.12:22-25)
8. F_____ and G_____ (Monarchy & Exile)
9. M_____ (2 Chron. 36:23)
10. B_____ G_____ C_____ I___ (Intertestamental 400 yrs)
11. A_____ I_____ L_____ (Gethsemane)
12. D_____ N_____ of the S_____ (Jesus tried b4 courts)
13. B_____ I_____ 3 (March to the Cross)
14. F_____ has _____ parts (Cross, Resurrection, 2nd coming)
    - I. G_____ t_____ (
    - II. E_____ p_____ (
    - III. H_____ t_____ s_____ (
    - IV. D____ d_____ d_____
    - V. E_____ n____ p_____ (
15. F_____ I_____ (Revelation 22)

Homework:
1. Check out the Script Lab discussion on two familiar movies.
   - *Wizard of Oz* (https://bit.ly/WOOScriptLabPlotDiscussion)
   - *The Sound of Music* (https://bit.ly/SOMScriptlabDiscuss)
2. Apply the STC 15 beats to YOUR PLOT!

Handouts & Questions?