

12 BOOK CHALLENGE

I don't know about you, but one of my worst fears as an author is that I have a limited number of ideas, and once I write those books, my career will be over.

Then, last summer I visited a friend, and her husband shared with me a yearly challenge he was doing for screenplay ideas: Every day, he would write a logline. They didn't have to be good. They just had to exist.

And I thought, why not do this with novel ideas?

In the end, and despite the title, what you create with these cards doesn't have to be a book. It could be whatever you want: a novella, a short story, a play--or just ideas on notecards, an exercise in plotting. They just need to exist.



WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cardstock or other sturdy paper
- Printer
- pencil
- Scissors
- Pages 3-6 of this packet

HOW IT WORKS:

Print and cut out 12 sets of the attached notecards. They are already pre-labeled for the Save-the-Cat beats. At the beginning of every month, fill out the premise card. Then, throughout the month, fill out the foundation beats. (I added opening image and finale because I like to know where my character starts and ends up.) On the next page is an example of how to fill out the cards. By the end of the month, you have a plot arc!

EXPLANATION OF FOUNDATION BEATS:

- **Opening Image:** Your protagonist's status quo or a snapshot of their current life.
- **Catalyst:** The inciting incident or the event that puts the character's journey in motion.
- **Break into 2:** The moment the protagonist decides what to do about the catalyst.
- **Midpoint:** The middle of the story, where the stakes are raised again.
- **All Is Lost:** The climax of the book, or the character's rock bottom.
- **Break into 3:** The moment the protagonist realizes what they must do to fix everything.
- **Finale:** A snapshot of the protagonist's life after the events of the book.

WANT IDEAS? FOLLOW ME ON  @ITSSARAHHAWKINS OR @ITSSARAHHAWKINSEDTITS

PREMISE

CATEGORY: Young Adult

GENRE: Contemporary

LOGLINE:

A broken hearted 18-year-old sets off on a road trip, where she learns that being herself is more important than having a significant other.

WORKING TITLE: Blue Skies, Broken Hearts, Next 12 Exits

SCENE TITLE: Sign Up

BEAT: Catalyst

MAIN CHARACTERS Jane, two classmates

SETTING High School Cafeteria, Lunch

EVENTS

Jane overhears two relative strangers talk about a road trip they're going on to Washington D.C. after school lets out for summer.

PURPOSE: To get Jane to start debating her own trip.

PREMISE

CATEGORY: _____

GENRE: _____

ELEVATOR PITCH: _____

WORKING TITLE: _____

SCENE TITLE: _____

BEAT: _____

Opening
Image

MAIN CHARACTERS _____

SETTING _____

EVENTS _____

PURPOSE: _____

SCENE TITLE:

BEAT: Catalyst

MAIN CHARACTERS

SETTING

EVENTS

PURPOSE:

SCENE TITLE:

BEAT: Break into 2

MAIN CHARACTERS

SETTING

EVENTS

PURPOSE:

SCENE TITLE:

BEAT: Midpoint

MAIN CHARACTERS

SETTING

EVENTS

PURPOSE:

SCENE TITLE:

BEAT: Break into 3

MAIN CHARACTERS

SETTING

EVENTS

PURPOSE:

SCENE TITLE:

BEAT: All Is Lost

MAIN CHARACTERS

SETTING

EVENTS

PURPOSE:

SCENE TITLE:

BEAT: Finale

MAIN CHARACTERS

SETTING

EVENTS

PURPOSE:

Here are some blank cards for when you're ready to fill out the plot!

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| SCENE TITLE: | BEAT: |
| MAIN CHARACTERS | |
| ----- | |
| SETTING | |
| ----- | |
| EVENTS | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| ----- | |
| PURPOSE: | |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| SCENE TITLE: | BEAT: |
| MAIN CHARACTERS | |
| ----- | |
| SETTING | |
| ----- | |
| EVENTS | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| ----- | |
| PURPOSE: | |