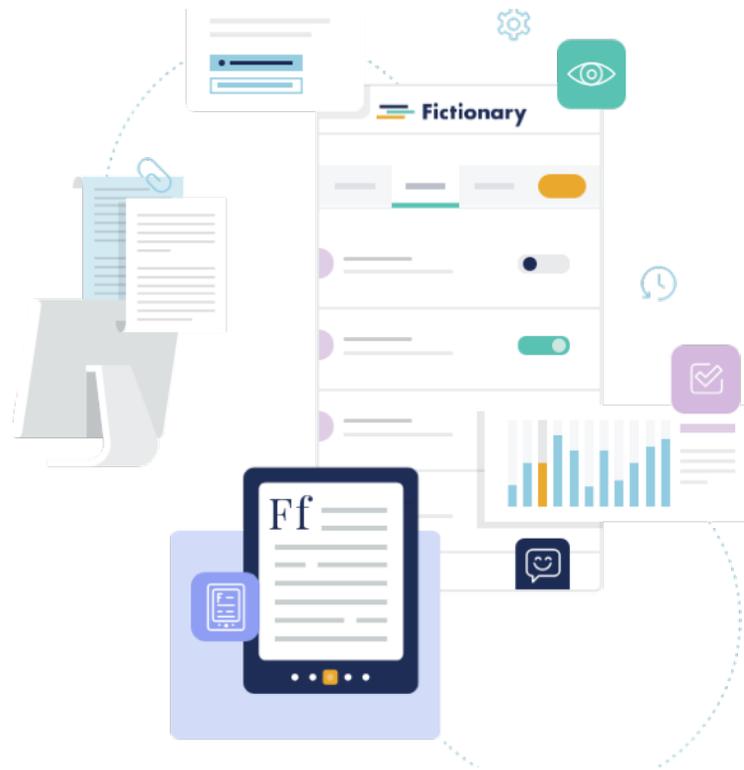




# StoryTeller Masterclass

## Lesson 1



# Lesson 1: How to Use StoryTeller to Tell a Powerful Story

One of our early writers asked me: “How will StoryTeller help my manuscript?”

What a great question! It made me think about the best way to explain the **benefits of using StoryTeller** and becoming your own story editor and was the inspiration for creating this masterclass.

With a first draft finished, it's time to focus on story and structure. Word choice, style, and copy-editing are all important, but if you don't have a great story, it doesn't matter if you've proofread to perfection.

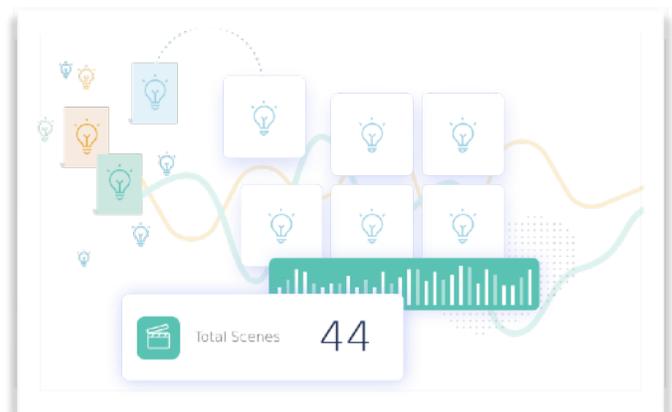
Excellent grammar and punctuation alone won't sell books. **A powerful story will sell your book.**

And a powerful story is made up of powerful scenes. StoryTeller is designed to guide you through a scene-by-scene analysis of your story. So let's start by defining a scene.

## What is a Scene?

A scene is a section of your novel where a character or characters engage in action or dialogue. You can think of a scene as a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end.

A chapter may contain one scene or many scenes. Usually, the scenes within a chapter are related. Some novels have one scene per chapter for the entire story. Others have multiple scenes.

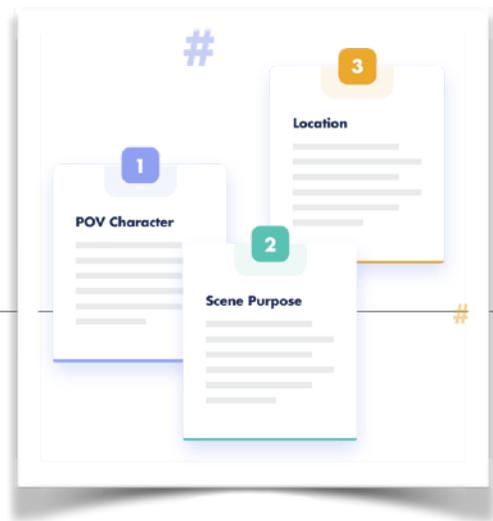


*Deciding how to structure the story is where your artistry comes into play.*

Where you choose to start a new scene will influence the experience you give your readers.

Usually, you'll start a new scene when you change the point of view character, who is in the scene, the storyline, the scene location, or the time.

## Elements of a Scene



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### Characters

Most likely you have at least one character in a scene. The character doesn't have to be a human. It could be a storm. It could be a haunted house. It could be an animal. You get the idea. Whatever "it" is, if you give "it" a scene, "it" must be something relevant to the story

Characters entering or exiting a scene are a good place to start or end the scene.

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### Plot

Each scene needs a great opening line, an entry hook, a middle, a climax and an exit hook.

Consider starting a new scene, when the direction of the story changes, the action is significantly different, or you're sharing a subplot.

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## Setting

The scene must take place somewhere. When the location changes, then consider starting a new scene.

## Triggers for Starting a New Scene

Just to recap, a good time to start a new scene is when one of the following changes:

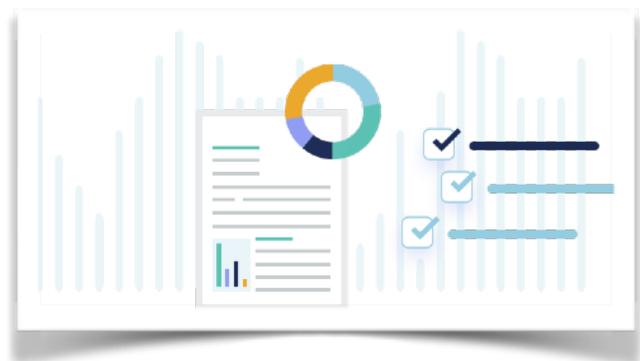
- POV character
- Characters in the scene
- Storyline
- Scene location
- Time

When you start a new scene, you let the reader know to expect a change, and this helps the story flow from one scene to the next.

You can also start a new scene if the word count of your scene is getting too long for the overall structure of your story.

## How Long Should a Scene Be?

The length of a scene affects the pacing of the story. The shorter the scene, the faster the pacing. The longer the scene, the slower the pacing. This, of course, has exceptions.



The key scenes in your novel such as the inciting incident, plot point 1, midpoint, plot point 2, and climax can have a longer word count and still be fast-paced. The action or key events happening in those scenes with drive the pacing.



Keep in mind that many readers use small reading devices these days, and a long scene may seem even longer when read on a small screen. You don't want to tire a reader out.

When a reader finishes a scene, they feel a sense of accomplishment. If a scene is too long, they might get tired and stop reading and not feel accomplished. Seems odd, I know, but technology is influencing the way we read and write.

Now that you know what a scene is and how important it is to the editing process, we'll take you on the exciting journey of story editing based on a scene-by-scene analysis.

## 10 Benefits of StoryTeller

To answer the opening question: "How will StoryTeller help my manuscript?" **StoryTeller** can identify and help you fix problems within your manuscript by focusing on the **structure of your story**, not on the words. Nine critical structural areas are:

1. Pacing
2. Character names and appearances
3. Point of view characters and goals
4. Story arc
5. Plot holes (scenes without a clear purpose)
6. Flow from scene to scene
7. Absence of tension or conflict
8. Empty stage syndrome

## 9. Confusing timelines or missing objects

The 10th benefit of using StoryTeller comes from the built-in **Editing Tips**. These tips explain why each Fictionary Story Element is important, how to use it within StoryTeller, and provide you with specific advice on the area of the manuscript you're working on just when you need it. No more endless searching for writing advice!



You'll find editing tips in StoryTeller wherever you see this icon. These tips describe the Fictionary Elements of Fiction and the powerful insights on the Visualize page

## Fictionary Story Editing Masterclass

Editing a manuscript is a big undertaking, both intellectually and emotionally. It takes time and being thorough can be difficult, but the creative story editing process always pays off.

**StoryTeller** makes editing easier by applying universal storytelling structures to each and every scene. Evaluate and revise your manuscript against 38 Fictionary Story Elements to tell a powerful story people will naturally connect with.

We'll help you make the most of **StoryTeller** with the Story Editing Masterclass.

*Yours for free when you start a 14-day free trial.*

Lesson 2: Characters and Story Structure

Lesson 3: How to Improve Your Plot

Lesson 4: How To Improve Your Settings

Lesson 5: How To Use Word Count To Evaluate Your Scenes

Lesson 6: Connect Your Readers To Your Characters

Lesson 7: Make The Most Of Your POV Characters

Lesson 8: Story Arc And Engaging Your Readers

Lesson 9: Finding Plot Holes

Lesson 10: Draw Your Readers Into and Out of Each Scene

Lesson 11: Maximize Your Use of Tension And Conflict

Lesson 12: Check For An Empty Stage

Lesson 13: Keep Your Timeline Clear



StoryTeller and this masterclass takes you through evaluating and editing each scene in your novel until you've created a powerful story.