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STORY EDITING

Using 15 Key
Story Elements to
Tell Better Stories



Chapter 1

WELCOME

To turn a first draft into a story readers love, writers need to be their own story editors.

You've finished your first draft. Congratulations! Now what?

Whether you're self-publishing or going the traditional route, your story needs to be as good as you can possibly make it before sharing it with others.

Now is the time to evaluate your writing with a story edit and turn your first draft into a story readers love.

But just re-reading your novel and looking for areas of improvement without having a process can waste a lot of time. Questions such as: Where to start? What to change? and How to make it better? all come to mind.

Don't despair. There is light at the end of the editing tunnel.

Just like you learned how to write a novel, you can learn how to perform a story edit. All you need is a clear process, some editing knowledge, and the right tool.

It's your job as a writer to put in the hard work of self-editing and rewriting your story until it works. Our goal is to help make that job a lot easier!

The STORY Edit

Story editing, also called structural editing, is all about evaluating the major components of your story. We call these components **Story Elements** and have grouped them by:

- ⇒ **Characters**
- ⇒ **Plot**
- ⇒ **Settings**

A great story is made up of a collection of great scenes that flow smoothly from one to another. We're going to show you how to use the Story Elements to create and link great scenes.

Story editing helps you evaluate your story on a scene-by-scene basis. You'll be able to improve the structure and flow of your novel just as if you hired a structural editor.

In the following chapters, we'll introduce and explain the Story Elements starting with three elements for Characters. After that, we'll tackle eight Plot and four Settings elements.

To help you get started on editing and rewriting your story, this eBook covers a subset of the Story Elements incorporated in the Fictionary online editing tool.

Benefits Of Story Editing

The Story Elements described will help you identify and fix issues with your manuscript in the following areas:

- ⇒ **Pacing**
- ⇒ **Character names, appearances, and goals**
- ⇒ **Point of view**
- ⇒ **Story arc**
- ⇒ **Plot holes (Scenes with no purpose)**
- ⇒ **Flow from scene to scene**
- ⇒ **Absence of tension or conflict**
- ⇒ **Empty stage syndrome**
- ⇒ **Confusing timelines or missing objects**

TELL BETTER STORIES

Fictionary helps writers tell better stories with online software that simplifies story editing.

TELL BETTER STORIES

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Thanks!

Kristina