



SATURDAY ENRICHMENT SPRING 2022

Plot It! A Creative Writing Blueprint

Instructor: Megan Holman

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Location: Robinson Center Classroom
Guggenheim Annex

Course Description

How can we make the challenge of plotting great fiction less daunting? This course will answer that question by examining a story's essential components and where they are positioned for maximum effect. Our first focus will be learning the intricacies of both character arcs and story arcs. Understanding their roles will provide us with a solid foundation as we then launch into an examination of novel plot structure, where students will discover how to build these arcs into the framework of long fiction. Students will also learn how the plot of a novel differs from that of short stories and novellas, giving them freedom in the future to pursue plotting the genre of their choice. Finally, students will have the opportunity to breathe some life into their plot by writing a brief, summarized version of their stories.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the essential components of plot structure
- Utilize this framework to map out their own stories
- Understand how the main character's journey fits into this structure
- See the different ways they can utilize plotting for various genres

Instructional Strategies

Class time will be spent engaging through:

- Mini-lectures
- Class discussions
- Individual work
- Small group exercises
- Constructive evaluation

Resources and Materials

Please bring the following to class each day:

- Course pack (to be distributed on first day)
- Writing notebook and pen/pencil (to be distributed on first day)

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topics and Activities
Week 1 - April 2	Portrait of a Main Character: An Essential Roadmap
Week 2 - April 9	Snapshot of a Story: The Necessary Components
Week 3 - April 16	When Worlds Collide: Character Arcs and Story Arcs
Week 4 - April 23	Plotters vs. Pantsers: Why Plotting Is Crucial and How To Do It
Week 5 - April 30	Mapmaking: Constructing Our Own Plot Blueprint
Week 6 - May 7	Problem Solving: Q & A, Discussion
Week 7 - May 14	Genre Exploration: How Mapping Short Stories and Novellas is Different (or the same!)
Week 8 - May 21	Last Day: Sharing of Student Plots and Story Summaries