

MACRO LEVEL: Know your Characters

- Back story
- Childhood – Life events that shaped them
- Emotional baggage
- Greatest fear
- Their heart's desire – what they want to do and achieve ie. Goals

MACRO LEVEL – GMC: Main Characters

- Protagonist and Antagonist
- GOAL — WHAT does the character WANT?
- MOTIVATION – WHY does the character want it?
- CONFLICT = OBSTACLES: What is stopping the character from achieving their goal?
- The answer to GOAL and MOTIVATION questions: Discovered by exploring the character's background and history BEFORE the story starts
- CONFLICT – Ask the Question: Why can't your protagonist...?

MACRO AND MICRO LEVEL – GMC: Main Characters

- MACRO LEVEL – Big Picture GMC: STORY GOALS
- MICRO LEVEL – Smaller SCENE GOALS that move the plot and story forward
- SCENE GOALS – Small steps your protagonist takes to continue on the journey to winning and succeeding in achieving their big story goals

MACRO AND MICRO LEVEL – INTERNAL CONFLICT vs. EXTERNAL CONFLICT

- INTERNAL CONFLICT — What's happening in a character's head and heart

Story → CHANGE in the character ie. CHARACTER GROWTH

- EXTERNAL CONFLICT — Generated by the PLOT

ie. Events in the story that impact on the character and create Stress/Conflict within the character

STORY GENIUS by Lisa Cron

WHAT IS STORY POWER?

MICRO LEVEL: SCENE AND SEQUEL

- Techniques of the Selling Writer by Dwight V. Swain (1965)
- Each SCENE (Action) is followed by a SEQUEL (Reaction)

MICRO LEVEL: MOTIVATION-REACTION UNIT (MRU)

- Dwight V. Swain
- Domino Effect: STIMULUS → RESPONSE → NEW STIMULUS etc.

VERBALIZE by Damon Suede

MICRO LEVEL: STORY PACING

- The length of your SCENES and SEQUELS will impact on the PACING in your story
- SCENE = ACTION
- SEQUEL = REACTION and Reflection

MICRO LEVEL – POV (Point of View)

- POV Character in a Scene
 - > Character with the highest stakes in the scene
 - ie. Character with the MOST TO LOSE if they don't succeed and achieve their SCENE GOAL

ANALYSIS – Poor Quality Writing Example

- WHY is there NO POWER in this opening scene from Chapter One?

ANALYSIS – FIRST LINE IN A BOOK

ANALYSIS – OPENING PAGES IN A BOOK

Questions from a READER PERSPECTIVE:

- Are you the target audience for this story? (Genre)
- Does the story opening engage you as a reader?

SHARE with your Group:

- Identify the STORY POWER
- Identify the WRITING CRAFT techniques that the author has used to keep the reader engaged and connected to the protagonist in the story world and turning the page.