

NAVIGATING THE NARRATIVE

Narratives will usually follow an outline of:

- Introduction
- Problem
- Solution

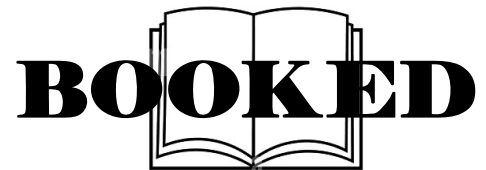
Many elements can make up a **narrative**: **characters**, **setting**, **plot**, **theme**, **dialogue**, **conflict**, and **resolution** are just some of them.

Use your imagination

Adventure, action, science-fiction, mystery, horror are all examples of different **genres**.

ENTERTAIN

the reader



1

NAVIGATING THE NARRATIVE

CHEAT SHEET CHARACTER

Characters are the people or animals in a narrative. They bring your story to life through their **personality** and **actions**.

Who is your character?
What do they **look** like?
Where do they **live**? How would you **describe** them? What are they trying to **achieve**? Do they have a **backstory**?

Make your characters fascinating

Detailed character descriptions throughout your narrative will **strengthen** your storytelling superpowers!

Readers care about **interesting** and **unique** characters



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NAVIGATING THE NARRATIVE

CHEAT SHEET SETTING

Setting is **WHERE** the narrative takes place. It is important because it helps the reader understand who the characters are and what they do.

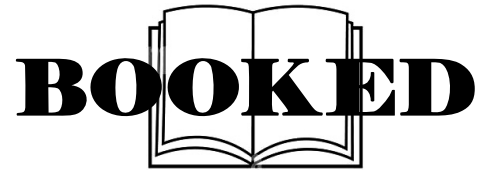
Details are important when creating a setting because they help readers imagine the story better.

Describing specific things like **colors**, **smells** and **sounds** can make the story feel more real and interesting and help readers understand and **relate** to the characters.

A great setting makes a **great story**

Settings can be somewhere in the real world or a creation of your imagination—just remember to be **descriptive**!

The setting helps to **set the mood** of the narrative



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CHEAT SHEET INTRODUCTION

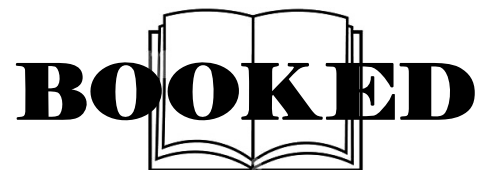
The introduction is the **beginning** of a narrative, where the writer **sets the stage** for what's to come.

It should be **clear** and easy to understand and give the reader an **idea** of what the story is about. That way, the reader will be **interested** and want to keep reading to find out more!

A **SIZZLING START** is **superb**

You might include a **hook**, a **question**, or throw the readers right into the middle of a **dramatic moment**!

Grab the reader's **attention**



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CHEAT SHEET PROBLEM

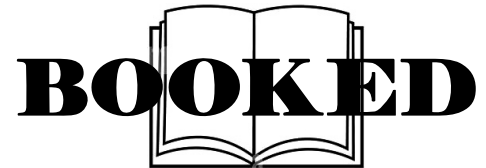
A problem or conflict is something that happens in a story that **causes trouble** or **difficulty** for the characters in a narrative.

They **create tension** and excitement and give the reader a reason to keep reading to find out what happens next. It might be a **physical obstacle** to overcome (like to defeat a dragon) or it might be a **hard decision** your character has to make.

Lots of **LITTLE** problems—
or one **BIG** problem?

In some stories, the problem or conflict **involves another character** in the story. This means that the main character has to deal with the other character and find a way to **resolve** the **problem** or **conflict** between them.

Problems build **tension**
and **excitement**



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NAVIGATING THE NARRATIVE

CHEAT SHEET RESOLUTION

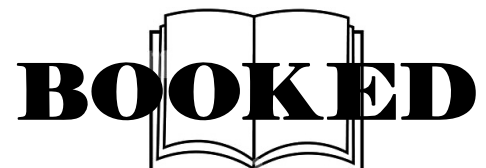
The resolution is where the characters find a **solution** to their problem or conflict.

The resolution can be **surprising**, **unexpected**, or even a little bit **open-ended**, but it should still make sense within the story.

Leave the reader
feeling *satisfied*

The resolution can change how the character **feels** about themselves or the world and can sometimes reveal a **lesson** or **moral** of the story.

The resolution can **make or break**
a great story, so plan ahead!



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NAVIGATING THE NARRATIVE

CHEAT SHEET POWER UPS

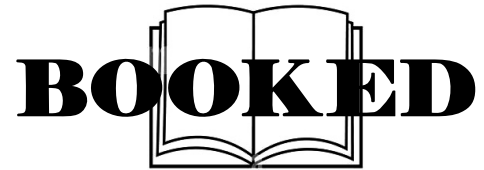
Solid **planning** ensures that your narrative is **structured** correctly, your ideas make sense, and your **resolution** is strong.

Descriptive language helps readers **visualize** the narrative setting and characters.

Choosing the right **point of view** (usually in the 'first' or 'third' person's perspective) can make a story more engaging and enjoyable to read.

Great *dialogue* makes **great characters!**

The **theme** is the underlying **message** or **moral** of a story and will make your writing **meaningful** and **relatable** to readers.



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PLOT

CLIMAX

Turning point or boss battle between good guy and bad guy

RIISING ACTION

A series of problems or crises that creates suspense

FALLING ACTION

Lets characters and readers take a breath after the battle and reflect on the results

EXPOSITION

Setting and background

RESOLUTION

Moralizes and ties up loose ends

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