

a writerly workbook



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Creatives' Corner

MIND MAP YOUR WAY TO THE PERFECT BOOK TITLE

Struggling to come up with just the right title for your story? Check out the [full how-to post here](#) and tuck in to the worksheets below. You'll have those title ideas mind mapped before you know it!

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Section One

MIND MAPPING

Let's get started! Read through your finished manuscript or any material you have written, plus your story notes, and use the following mind maps to note down any words or phrases that fall into these categories...

HOW TO USE NAMES MIND MAP

This mind map is for the names of any important characters, places or things in your story. For example:

The names of your protagonist, antagonist or other major characters.

The names of settings, destinations characters want to reach or frequently referred to locations.

The time period the story is set in.

The names of anything integral to the plot, like key objects or events.

HOW TO USE STORY MIND MAP

This mind map is the place for you to note down any important story elements, such as:

Major themes you pick up on throughout the story.

Driving character goals or motivations.

Key conflicts, critical to the plot in some way.

The story's genre, with related key terms sprouting off from it.

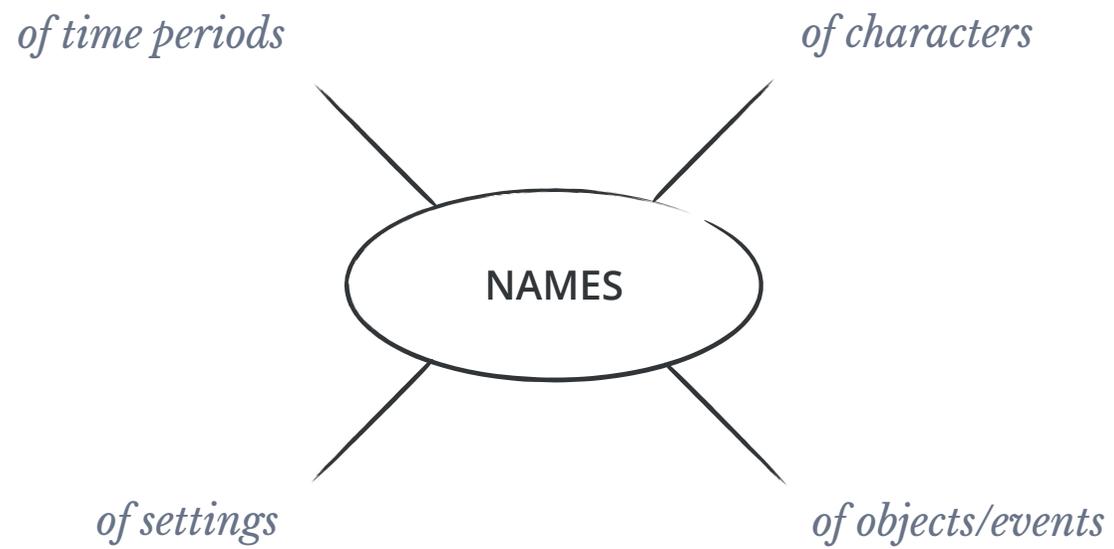
HOW TO USE MEANINGFUL MIND MAP

This mind map belongs to any words or phrases that are pivotal or significant in the story. For example:

Meaningful bits of dialogue or narrative.

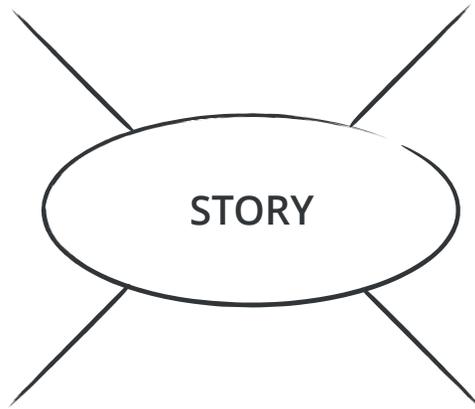
Words or phrases that describe or fit the characters.

Meaningful words or phrases relating to the story that don't fit under any other category.



genre-related terms

goals/motivations

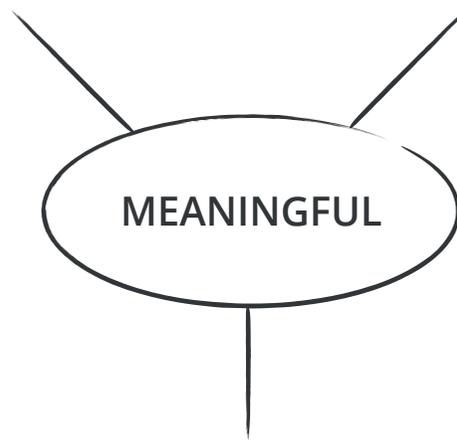


key conflicts

themes

other related words/phrases

dialogue/narrative



descriptive words/phrases

Section Two

WORKING ON THE WORDING

Time to work some magic. Let's take all that information you noted down in Section One and turn it into a list of workable title ideas.

NOTE: Feel free to use whichever worksheet fits best with your idea generating process (or both, if you want!).

HOW TO USE WORD SPLURGE WORKSHEET

Use your completed mind maps to generate some possible title ideas on this worksheet. Don't overthink, don't hold back, don't worry too much about getting the wording perfect yet—just splurge any and all title ideas you have on to the page. My advice: try to get at least 20 title possibilities here.

HOW TO USE WORD CLASS WORKSHEET

This worksheet's a little different. Here, I want you to brainstorm titles with a different emphasis in each column, focusing on each word class. (Not sure what a word class is or what the different types are? [Find out here.](#))

For example, in the 'Nouns' column, you'd list title ideas that have a noun as the central feature (like *The Cartographer*), in the 'Verbs' column, you'd make the verb the main focus of the title (like *Follow Behind*), etc. The 'Other' column is for any titles that focus on word classes that weren't mentioned or for any that are a good mixture of word classes.

“ Struggling to find the perfect title for your story? @Writerology has the guide and workbook for you. ”

[CLICK TO TWEET THIS](#)

Section Three

REFINING YOUR TITLES

Now to refine the title ideas you wrote down in Section Two and create a list of your favourites, ready for the next step!

This section is the place for you to take the title possibilities you listed previously and narrow them down to the very best of the bunch.

My recommendation: aim for a list of around 10 title possibilities here, depending on how many you came up with in the previous section. Do any final tinkering you need to do with the wording, keeping in mind the points to the right, and polish those titles until they shine!

AND DON'T FORGET:

“ Great titles aren't about wit or length or catchiness. Great titles are a reflection of your story's heart. ”

[CLICK TO TWEET THIS](#)

TO KEEP IN MIND

While you're tinkering with the wording of your book baby names, consider these important points:

The style of your title will affect your readers' expectations so keep your writing style consistent from title to story. Is your prose lyrical and poetic? Punchy or sharp-sounding titles probably won't work then.

Genre can also affect title conventions. Long or unusual titles might be more commonplace in literary works or fantasy/sci-fi, while genres like thrillers and horrors tend to have shorter, sharper titles.

If your book is part of a series, consider whether you'll make the titles for all the books related somehow. If so, will it be a word they all share? A common theme? A similar pattern?

THE TOP TEN

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Section Four

CHOOSING THE ONE

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It's here! The final stage, at long last. All that's left to do now is to pick the title from the Top Ten worksheet that speaks to *your* heart.

My advice: don't do it straight away. Put your list in a drawer for at least a day before narrowing it down. (Got to get a little perspective, right?) Then, if no particular title jumps out at you, start by cutting out those that don't work as well. Whittle your list down until you're left with The One.

But, Faye, you may ask, what if I can't narrow it down to one or I'm not sure which is the best title to use?

Then, dear writer, I recommend asking someone you trust for a second opinion. It could be a family member, a friend, a critique partner or your writing buddies. You could even set up a poll on social media so that your followers can vote for the one they like best!

Of course, this is only one way to brainstorm a title for your story. There are as many out there as there are people—everyone has their own process and you'll probably want to tinker with mine so that it suits you better. And that's okay. Tinker away, my friend.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY...

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Thinking up pretty, witty and epic sounding titles is the *last* stage in finding the perfect name for your book baby.

Start your search by uncovering the heart of your story, the features that define your novel and give it its soul, and refine what you find from there.

Before you know it, you'll have a title that has readers plucking it off the shelves, a title that is intrinsically connected to the story it belongs to.

Because they're the titles that readers **remember**.

AND THE WINNER IS...

the title of my story is...

this title works wonderfully for my story because...

DO YOU KNOW THE SECRET TO UNFORGETTABLE STORYTELLING?

To write a spellbinding book, you need a handle on more than just storytelling technique. You need to understand something that saturates every part of the writing process: people.

People write stories. (We call them authors.) **People read stories.** (We call them readers.)
People fill the pages of stories. (We call them characters.)

Understanding what motivates people, what resonates with them, what makes them *feel* is the first step to crafting an incredible story. And it's not as mysterious or mystifying as it seems.

I'm Faye. Storytelling is my calling, psychology my speciality, and I use my knowledge to teach writers how to make a meaningful transformation in their lives.

Ever wished you could write more often, but failed at the first hurdle? **Let's change that.** Ever wanted to craft multilayered personalities for your cast, but not known where to start? **Not anymore.** Ever wondered how to create a deep connection between your readers and your characters? **I can help you there.**

So, if you want to write a book that makes readers' fingers tingle with excitement whenever they pick it up, make yourself comfortable, my friend.

It all starts right here.

DEAR WRITER

*You have a story to tell
and it's going to be spectacular.
Take the first step and put
those words on the page
today.*