

SCOPE & SEQUENCE NOVELISTS



www.mysteriouswriterssociety.com

Novel PLANNING

1 Planning Characters & Plot

Video Duration: 20:37

Lesson: We start by creating character profiles including their desires, habits, temperaments, accents, and unique qualities.

Student Task: Download the "Hero's Journey Planning Template." Complete character descriptions and key plot elements for your original story.

Task Duration: 1 hour

2 Planning Act 1

Video Duration: 22:46

Lesson: We plan act 1 of a story including describing the character's ordinary world, call to adventure, refusal of the call, the guardian at the gate.

Student Task: Plan act 1 of your original story.

Task Duration: 1 hour

3 Planning Act 2

Video Duration: 18:35

Lesson: We plan act 2 of a story including crossing the threshold, allies, tests & enemies, and entering the inmost cave

Student Task: Plan act 2 of your original story.

Task Duration: 1.5 hours

4 Planning Act 3

Video Duration: 12:26

Lesson: We plan act 3 of a story including the ordeal, death & rebirth, transformation, and the road back. We pay special attention to character development and plot twists.

Student Task: Plan act 3 of your original story.

Task Duration: 1 hour

5 Writing Chapter 1

Video Duration: 23:32

Lesson: We examine how J.K. Rowling, Rick Riordan, and Shannon Messenger began their best-selling books and how they can be imitated with the students' unique story.

Student Task: Write chapter 1 of your novel.

Task Duration: 2-3 hours

6 Tense, Exposition, & Dialogue

Video Duration: 16:42

Lesson: We go through editing strategies by examining student stories from the past. We focus on maintaining a balance of dialogue and exposition as well as being consistent with tense.

Student Task: Edit chapter 1. Continue writing subsequent chapters making gradual progression through act 1.

Task Duration: 1-2 hours

7 Dialogue Hacks

Video Duration: 16:14

Lesson: We learn how to use dialogue tags as active exposition. We also examine new story examples for proper grammar regarding dialogue write-ups.

Student Task: Edit chapter 1 and all other chapters written for dialogue improvement. Continue writing subsequent chapters making gradual progression through act 1.

Task Duration: 1-2 hours

8 Active Voice

Video Duration: 07:27

Lesson: We learn how to simplify our writing by eliminating the passive voice. We go through story examples and describe how to use direct, vivid verbs.

Student Task: Edit chapter 1 and all other chapters written for active voice improvement. Continue writing subsequent chapters making gradual progression through act 1.

Task Duration: 1-2 hours

9 Action Scenes

Video Duration: 10:22

Lesson: We read through portions of Annie Sullivan's "Tiger Queen" to analyze her excellent approach to writing action scenes. We then edit a "boring" action scene and turn it into an amazing one.

Student Task: Continue writing your story with the goal of finishing act 1 and progressing into act 2.

Task Duration: 1-2 hours

10 The 5 Senses

Video Duration: 13:03

Lesson: We rewrite a single scene from a story five times, each time focusing on a different sense, in order to show how vivid the reader can paint a picture of the scene in their imagination with the help of sensorial details.

Student Task: Edit previous chapters if necessary. Continue writing your story progressing into act 2.

Task Duration: 1-2 hours

Note to Teachers

After video 10, the students have enough knowledge to write the rest of their stories. What they won't have will be time to write them. The lives of the children are sometimes busy, sometimes not, but their childhood takes precedent over their writing. Make sure you tell them that they should not expect to finish their book during the course of your time with them. They might finish later on in life, but their goal is to live THEIR lives while still loving to write. They are free to work on their novels as often as they please, but don't let the pressure of finishing their book overcome their freedom to be kids.

Let the kiddos enjoy writing. **Don't give them a deadline.**

Also note that task durations are relative. Each student will write at a different pace. Play this by ear.