Novel Summary Questionnaire

Fill in as much as you can. If you just don’t know yet, that’s fine! If the question doesn’t seem relevant, that’s also fine! Or, if you have a couple of ideas, put them all down. This questionnaire is just to get you thinking about your novel as a whole and to highlight things you perhaps missed but should be thinking about.

As you progress through your novel’s development, redo this questionnaire (without looking at old versions!) to keep track of how the core of your story is developing and what you may have lost/gained in the process.

Name of the novel

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Genre

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Setting and time period

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Name of the protagonist

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Name/s of protagonist/s in subplots

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Name of the antagonist (even if it’s a concept like global warming etc)

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What is the main conflict in your story?

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What is the question your story poses?

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What are the stakes if your protagonist doesn’t overcome the conflict?

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Anything else you think is important?

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Using the above, write a 200-word max plot summary.

You may find the following video from freelance editor Ellen Brock, about writing the plot summary in a query letter, helpful: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM65RsSRFko&t=0s>

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