

OneNote Structure for the Trailblazer Author Notebook

Section 1: Foundations

- **Page: Story Idea**
 - The big concept or central theme of the story.
 - One-sentence pitch: *"What is this story about?"*
 - **Page: Writing Goals**
 - Personal goals for writing the story (e.g., daily/weekly word count, deadlines).
 - Long-term milestones (e.g., completing drafts, preparing for publication).
 - **Page: Inspirations and Research**
 - Notes, images, and resources that inspire the story.
 - Research on time periods, genre conventions, historical context, or relevant topics.
 - **Page: Theme**
 - The central message or idea the story explores.
 - *Example:* Friendship, sacrifice, the price of ambition.
 - Notes on how the theme ties into the characters, plot, and resolution.
 - **Page: Genre and Tone**
 - The genre of the story (e.g., fantasy, sci-fi, historical fiction).
 - Desired tone or mood (e.g., dark, uplifting, humorous).
 - Notes on how the genre influences the plot and characters.
 - **Page: Key Questions**
 - Questions the story aims to explore (philosophical, ethical, or emotional).
 - *Example:* "What does it mean to be loyal in times of war?"
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Section 2: Characters

- **Page: Protagonist**
 - Detailed profile of the main character:
 - **Goals:** What does the protagonist want?
 - **Flaws:** Internal struggles or weaknesses.
 - **Motivations:** Why are they pursuing their goal?
 - **Character Arc:** How they grow or change over the story.
 - Prompts for developing the protagonist's backstory, personality, and relationships.
- **Page: Antagonist**
 - Detailed profile of the main opposing force:
 - **Goals:** What does the antagonist want?
 - **Motivations:** Why do they act as they do?
 - **Conflict with Protagonist:** How their goals clash.
 - **Complexity:** What makes them relatable or morally ambiguous?
 - Notes on how the antagonist challenges the protagonist.
- **Page: Supporting Characters**

- Profiles for key supporting characters:
 - **Role in the Story:** Friend, mentor, rival, etc.
 - **Connection to Protagonist:** How they help or hinder the protagonist.
 - **Unique Traits:** What makes them stand out?
 - Space for relationships between supporting characters.
 - **Page: Minor Characters**
 - Brief notes on secondary and tertiary characters:
 - **Purpose:** Why are they in the story?
 - **Traits:** Distinctive features or quirks.
 - Notes on how minor characters affect the plot or setting.
 - **Page: Relationships**
 - Diagrams or notes on dynamics between characters:
 - Protagonist vs. Antagonist.
 - Friendships, family ties, rivalries, or romantic connections.
 - How relationships evolve through the story.
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Section 3: World-Building

- **Page: Setting Overview**
 - Descriptions of key locations and their significance to the story.
 - *Example:* Cities, homes, battlefields, natural landscapes.
 - **Page: Rules of the World**
 - Notes on cultural, social, or magical rules.
 - Political systems, technology, religion, or societal norms.
 - **Page: Visual Aids**
 - Maps, sketches, or images of the world or key locations.
 - Links to tools like Blockadelabs or Bing Image Creator for visualization.
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Section 4: Plot

- **Page: Hero's Journey Story Structure**
 - Breakdown of the hero's journey with notes for your protagonist.
 - Stages: Ordinary World, Call to Adventure, Mentor, Challenges, Climax, Return, etc.
 - Prompts to explore each stage of the journey.
- **Page: Conflict Outline**
 - Overview of the central conflict and stakes.
 - Notes on how the conflict escalates and resolves.
- **Page: Subplot Notes**
 - Descriptions of one or more subplots and their connections to the main plot.
 - How subplots enhance secondary characters or deepen themes.
- **Page: Plot Draft 1**

- Initial draft of the story outline (intro, rising action, climax, resolution).
 - **Page: Plot Draft 2**
 - Refined plot outline after feedback or revision.
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Section 5: Drafts

- **Page: Chapter Drafts**
 - Separate subpages for each chapter (e.g., Chapter 1, Chapter 2).
 - Space for brainstorming, outlining, and drafting scenes.
 - **Page: Key Scenes**
 - Drafts of pivotal moments (e.g., climax, resolution).
 - How these scenes connect to the plot and character arcs.
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Section 6: Writing Tools

- **Page: Prompts**
 - A collection of ChatGPT prompts for brainstorming, revising, or exploring ideas.
 - **Page: Mood and Tone**
 - Notes on the tone for specific scenes or chapters.
 - Exercises for experimenting with different moods or styles.
 - **Page: Vocabulary and Style**
 - Notes on word choice, recurring imagery, or stylistic goals.
 - Synonyms or phrases that fit the story's voice.
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Section 7: Revision and Feedback

- **Page: Editing Notes**
 - Feedback from peers, Guides, or AI on drafts.
 - Notes on areas to improve or refine.
 - **Page: Polishing**
 - Checklist for revising drafts (grammar, flow, continuity).
 - Final adjustments before completing chapters or scenes.
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Section 8: Publishing

- **Page: Preparing for Publication**
 - Checklist for getting your manuscript ready (final edits, formatting).
 - Notes on file formats, layouts, and tools for self-publishing.

- **Page: Self-Publishing Platforms**
 - Overview of platforms like Amazon KDP, IngramSpark, and Draft2Digital.
 - Tips for choosing the best platform for your book.
 - **Page: Marketing Your Book**
 - Notes on creating a book launch plan.
 - Ideas for social media marketing, book trailers, and ads.
 - **Page: Author Branding**
 - Tips for creating a professional author website, social media presence, and bio.
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Section 9: Class Resources

- **Page: Lesson Plans**
 - Space to upload lesson plans covered in class.
- **Page: Worksheets**
 - Worksheets provided for brainstorming or drafting.
- **Page: Playbooks for Technology**
 - Step-by-step guides for tools like ChatGPT, Blockadelabs, and Stable Diffusion.
- **Page: Reference Materials**
 - Additional resources or links shared in class (e.g., articles, videos, templates).
- **Page: Notes from Guides**
 - Notes, feedback, or summaries from class discussions or instructions.