**Five Exercises That Will**

**(Hopefully)**

**Unblock Your Writing**

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# **Step One: Write a Summary of Your Story**

*You are allowed 2-3 sentences MAXIMUM to outline the main points of each chapter. Copy and paste as needed.*

Chapter One:

Chapter Two:

Chapter Three:

Chapter Four:

Chapter Five:

Chapter Six:

Chapter Seven:

Chapter Eight:

Chapter Nine:

Chapter Ten:

# **Step Two: Make the Summary Shorter**

*Write your long, bullet point summary, as a short story. This short story should be no longer than a page. Make this as short as possible. Just the beats. Just the necessary information for the main character to reach their goal.*

# **Step Three: Write a Query Letter**

*Cut your short summary in half. Just the beginning of the story. Write that as a pitch. Imagine it as what would be on the back of your novel when its published. The blurb on GoodReads. The thing that makes people want to buy your book.*

# Step Four: Get to Know Your Characters

*Try and answers these as succinctly as possible. This is not information that NEEDS to be in your book, but it does need to be in your head. The better you know your characters, the more real they will be for the reader. Cut and paste as many times as needed. 3-5 characters at least.*

**Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Physical description:

Favourite piece of clothing:

What is something they cannot live without:

Your primary and secondary characters are in a room together, and I tiger walked in. What would this character do?

If this character was the main character of a story, what would that story be about?

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**Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Physical description:

Favourite piece of clothing:

What is something they cannot live without:

All the best villains are sure that they are the good guy. If this story was about the villain being the good guy, how would they story go?

What would have had to go differently for this character and the main character to be friends?

**Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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All the best villains are sure that they are the good guy. If this story was about the villain being the good guy, how would they story go?

What would have had to go differently for this character and the main character to be friends?

# Step Five: Write a list of conversations you want to have.

*Try to think about where you want your characters to go, and how you would like them to learn information/get to know each other. Think about conversations your characters might overhear, or things that they have learn that they will tell other characters. Write as much or as little detail about these conversations as you like.*

**Conversation between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

* SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION
* IS ANYONE ELSE AROUND?
* TONE OF THE CONVERSATION (calm, argument, angry, passionate)
* WHY IS THIS CONVERSATION IMPORTANT TO HAVE?

**Conversation between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

* SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION
* IS ANYONE ELSE AROUND?
* TONE OF THE CONVERSATION (calm, argument, angry, passionate)
* WHY IS THIS CONVERSATION IMPORTANT TO HAVE?

\*\**Last tip here – Think about the story arc and apply it to these conversations when you start to flesh them out. There is an inciting incident to the conversation, a growth in intensity, and goal/climax.*

# **BONUS TIP: Story Arc… Again**

Head over to my website and download the story arc outline sheet… or just draw one yourself.

Fill this story outline in with your whole story, see what’s missing. When you think of something, write it down on a note pad.

Look at what you have, and think of the conversations you would like your characters to have with each other. Make a numbered list of those conversations, it doesn’t have to be in order. Put those numbers in the arc where they might go.

I hope this all helps! Remember, just because it works for one person, doesn’t mean it will work for you. Maybe you need a break from writing, or a big chocolate cake, or to try a new creative thing! Who knows! Don’t be afraid to try different things. You got this!