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# PROBLEM

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Is your character's problem internal or external?

Brainstorm a few potential problems your character could encounter.

## CLIMAX

The climax is the most intense part of the story, found toward the end. Start thinking about a good climax for your story so your readers will stay on the edge of their seats. You can fill in this box later.

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# RESOLUTION (SOLUTION)

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One thing I like to remind all writers is: **DO NOT FIX YOUR CHARACTER'S PROBLEM TOO SOON!** Problems will lead to even more problems, so be sure to take time to develop your character's problem and even allow them to fail a time or two before you fix it.

Feel free to brainstorm a few potential ideas for your story resolution.

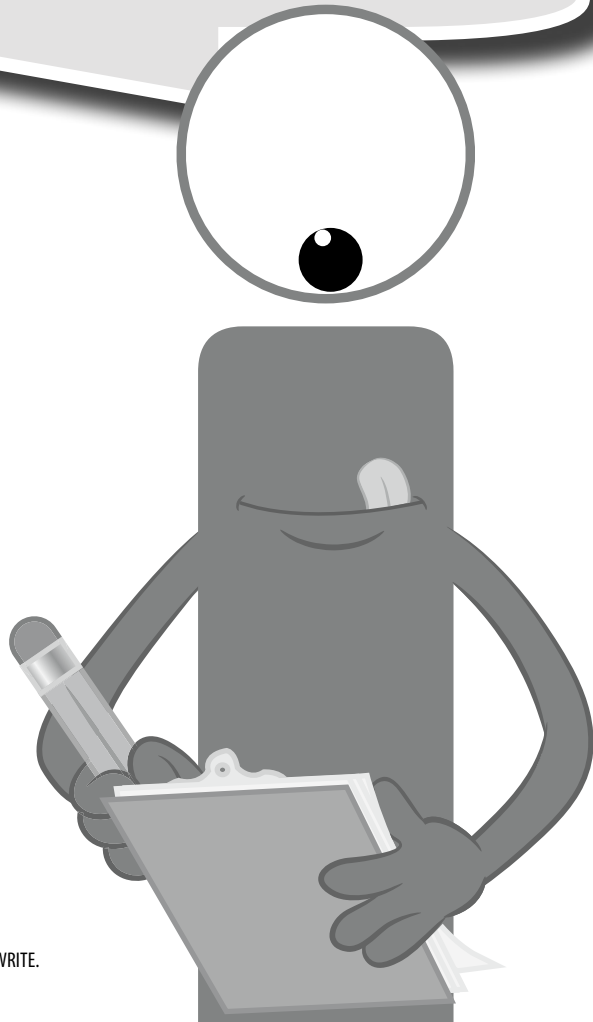


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# STORY OUTLINE

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Are you ready to learn the way real writers outline their stories? Many of them don't have super structured ways of making a perfect outline. They literally write all the things they want to happen in their story, in no particular order, so they don't forget. Go ahead and give it a try. I wrote an example of my own on page 84. The whole point is so you don't forget some of your good ideas in the middle of your writing.



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# "i" The Guy's example Story Outline

Possible Titles: The Oil Cowboy ???

From the perspective of a cowboy on the trail  
forgotten cowboys - what did cowboys do for work  
after the cattle boom ended

Character Name - Charley Baker



Backstory to trickle into the story: Born in Pasadena,  
Father (a cowboy) passed away when Charley was 17,  
so he had to take care of mama and sister.....

Started as a cowboy for work when he was 18 years  
old, even though many towns didn't allow cattle to  
pass through anymore



"" Horse's name was ~~Bob~~ Hairy.

He always had a book in his saddle - would read every  
night before going to bed on the trail

...Once we was confronted by Native Americans on one  
of his cattle drives while he was resting / He gave  
them the pocket knife his Pa gave him so they would  
leave him alone and not steal his horse

\*\* He considered a new profession and ~~thought~~  
decided he should at least head back south to his mom  
and sister \*\*

(He can share some of this backstory in conversations  
with his wife or kids in the story to get to know him  
better.)

This is where the story really starts: Charley read that guys were trying to find oil in Texas

He knew there was opportunity in Texas. He knew he had to go back to Texas and just believe.

He married a girl he met in Pasadena, Mary.

Her dad was drilling for oil, so he went to go work for him.....

They would find some oil, but not too much in the beginning. They had 2 kids. Boy and Girl (David and Ann)

They were poor. \*\*Describe what all they had and what they had to eat. Bread and beans. His daughter would always bring home a stray dog. She loved animals.

Problem: He could never find a job for a long amount of time.

Charley and his family moved to Galveston - 1897 - New Job - Digging water wells along the railroad tracks. They brought their dog, Buck Boy.

Climax of story: 1900 - Deadliest Storm hits Galveston.

They lost everything, even their dog. Describe the scene.

They even thought they lost ~~one of~~ their daughter, Ann,

but she was searching for Buck Boy. Describe what they

lost.

1901 - Oil was found at Spindletop. Lots of oil. They moved the family to Beaumont. Right before they left, they found Buck. They had to take a train. Charley got back in the drilling business and made a life for him and his family.