

Master Story Selection Cheat Sheet



Here are seven key take-aways from this course:

1. The more in touch you are with your biography, history, personality, and taste, the more likely you are to find stories that resonate with you. Return to your *Self-Elicitation Guide* often. Treat it as a living document, one that grows with you.
2. You may find inspiration in a past event, news item, article, memory, obsession, a philosophical idea, character, or world you see in your mind. The key is that the idea inspires excitement, awe, and wonder.
3. Tell the kinds of stories you love to read, watch, listen to and play. If you love the dark, crooked, rain-soaked foggy streets of noir, write a noir. Your love will come through every line.
4. Your best story ideas generate the most stress. They're the most personal and challenging. Therefore, if the idea fills you with excitement but also fear this is a *good* sign. It means the idea is important to you.
5. Before you decide what to write check your idea against the definition of a story to make sure it can live up to the criteria. We define the word "story" as:

A carefully constructed series of events, featuring a willful and compelling character, in a specifically designed world, that undergoes irreversible change. This change is brought about through a journey, which is emotionally charged, and resolves in a way that is surprising but credible and meaningful. The result is a discovery by the storyteller, audience and often, but not always, the character, of a profound Truth. This transcendent, shared experience is called Story.

6. Once you find an idea you love, relax and sit with it. If it's "the one," it will still excite you a day (or even a year) later.
7. The tighter the bond between you and your story, the more likely you are to enjoy the process, write something inspired, and finish.

