

Writing exercises to kick-start your fiction writing.

Prompts for Fiction Writers

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*Wake Up Writing!*

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# *Prompts for Fiction Writers*



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An OceanWolf Studios Publication  
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# INTRODUCTION

This book of writing prompts for fiction writers contains four sections of prompts: characterisation, setting, dialogue, and finally some idea seeds to inspire your fictional creativity. Use the book either by moving through the exercises, starting with the one below – or just dip into it when you feel the need to give your muse a little push start.

The initial exercise in this book of prompts is to create two twentieth century (human!) characters. The first will be your “protagonist”, your heroine/hero, and the second your “antagonist” or the thorn in your protagonist’s side! Complete the two profiles that follow this introduction to provide the foundations of these characters.

For the purposes of the book, I’ve made all references to the protagonist and the reader female, and the antagonist male. When you create your characters, feel free to change this format.

**Note:** With character profiles more is definitely better, so if you hear your character “speak” to you with any further personal information, or back-story, or family history, write it in the “more info” section of the profile.

## **PART 1 – WHO AM I?**

Characters are what bring your fiction to life. You need to know them as well as you know yourself. What do they like, what do they hate, how will they react in any situation, you need to know it all. Sometimes they will tell you, other times you have to try and discover it yourself. Work through these exercises and see what new facets of personality and past you learn of the characters you have developed for this prompts books.

- 1.1      Describe your heroine through the eyes of her mother. Now describe her through her sister's eyes. Finally, how does she describe herself? Have her tell you who she is.

- 1.2 Describe your antagonist through his own eyes. How does this differ from the view his mother holds of them?

- 1.3      Describe your protagonist through the eyes of your antagonist. Now allow your protagonist to describe your antagonist. Do either/both of the views show the real person, or a completely distorted view?

- 1.4 What makes your heroine angry? Write a scene where she hears some news on the television about the situation most likely to set her fuse alight – what does she do about it?

- 1.5 A close friend of your protagonist wants her to be Godmother to her baby. Write the conversation your protagonist has with herself about whether to accept or decline this invitation. Use this exercise to discover the religious opinions and beliefs that your protagonist holds.

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