Build 100 Worlds

100 fantasy fiction ideas, inspirations & story starters

(from enchanted lands to alternative histories to astounding future realms)

by K.B. Adams
Fantasy fiction writing ideas, inspirations, tips and story starters.

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Welcome:

Welcome to 100 possible fantasy worlds waiting to happen! This book goes far beyond a list of one-sentence writing prompts. You’ll find entries of potential fantasy world scenarios, story starters, plot ideas, settings, fantasy world elements (including characters), and the occasional list and outline.

All are meant to spark your own inner creativity and open doors to new realms within you. Remember, writing inspirations such as these aren’t “teacher’s assignments” that you must adhere to. If you like the character suggestion in one entry but prefer the setting of another entry, find a way to connect the two, and see where your imagination goes just from making yourself create that new connection.

Most entries are suitable or at least adaptable for those practicing either adult or young adult fantasy fiction. There are a few younger kids’ ideas tossed in, but those don’t count as your main 100. There is also a spoof fantasy story suggestion here and there. Not spoof as in ridiculing something already published and popular -- which is kind of cheap in my mind, like attaching your own cynical parasite onto someone else’s fame and hoarding all the laughs for yourself. But just plain spoofing life and we humans in general. There are only a couple, and those don’t count as your 100 either.

There are a few brainstorming entries regarding possible names for characters. But again, those are just fun little bonuses, and aren’t counted as the main 100.

There’s quite a variety of ways the entries are presented. In some cases, for example, just the fantasy world is described. In others, a dilemma within a fantasy world idea is suggested. In yet others, an overview of a possible start to finish story is expressed. A few are just a short paragraph long. Others are several paragraphs.

Numerous sub-categories of fantasy fiction are presented: Urban dystopia, planetary sci-fi, witchcraft, medieval worlds and lesser known mythical creatures. Alternate earth histories and completely new existences are offered as well.

You’ll see the words “Real Earth” (without the quotes) now and then because I found that when describing the fantasy worlds, the reader needed to know when I was suggesting something of pure imagination, something from known (but often forgotten) mythology, or was suggesting a lost “real” history or a little-known strange living creature that actually is or was part of the non-fantasy earth we live on. If that doesn’t make sense now, I think you’ll see what I mean as you go through the entries.

As far as pronouns, I sometimes use “she,” sometimes, “he,” and occasionally “he or she,” or s/he.

There is a “copyright intermission” near the center of the book with thoughts on copyright and fantasy writing. I’m not a copyright attorney and am not advising as such, but as the author of this book, and a writer myself, I offer non-pro thoughts on the topic for you to check out with a proper authority, including regarding the use of this book.

To those (certainly not you!) who shun the idea of fiction because it’s “distorting reality,” I can tell you that as a professional non-fiction writer and researcher myself, there can often be nothing more distorted than what our society believes is “fact.” Every fact is the
perception of the scientist or observer taken out of context of a bigger picture that no one can actually grasp. From there, it becomes the subsequent perception of the mob mentality that will eventually embrace the “fact” and defend it as though it’s Life Authority ordained. Its polar opposite with then automatically appear and work to disprove it with a vengeance.

The value of fiction, perhaps especially fantasy, is that as our left brain hemispheres are allowing a suspension of disbelief to enjoy the story as airships conquer non-existent planets and dragons emerge from non-existent caves, our right brain hemisphere is using a different language -- the language of story, to absorb universal truths. Through story, we recall a latent ability for beating the odds. We remember that what we once thought was insurmountable is actually conquerable, and that there is an unsung hero within those that society or family or tribe or social authorities once shunned.

So to you novelists, story writers, playwrights and screenwriters out there, I honor you with this quote believed to have come from Aristotle:

“Give me your story writers -- and I’ll show you the shapers of the world to come.”

You are the ones who embed reminders of our ability to attain soaring conquests amidst fantasy, myth, alternative histories and other delights the rest of us thrive on in thrilling wonder -- yet often don’t realize you’ve touched the very soul of what we yearn for in the world we actually already live in.

Though people like me can offer inspirations for your writing practice, it’s you who eventually turns unbelievable winged creatures into something one can believe really do, for the moment at least, exist. You embellish the willing suspension of disbelief and make sure any reader is not pulled out before the story ends.

Thank you a 100 times for being who you are.
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