



### Module 3 Exercise – Revision Preparation

**Create an editorial map, go scene by scene and summarise the important aspects of the book.**

**Identify what happens in every scene or chapter**

As yourself the following:

What is the point of view character trying to do in this scene?

Why is she trying to do it? (the motivation for that goal)

What's in the way of her doing it? (the conflict and scene obstacle)

What happens if she doesn't do it? (the stakes)

What goes wrong (or right)? (how the story moves forward)

What important plot or story elements are in the scene? (what you need to remember or what affects future scenes)

**Identify the scenes that show who the protagonist is and/or how that character changes**

If character growth is a common weak area for your first drafts, try listing the motivations of each decision that causes change to clarify what's triggering that growth (positive or negative). It'll force you to be specific and the act of writing it down crystallises how that character grows, especially if you have trouble articulating why a character suddenly changes her ways. Some things to ask:

- What type of person is the character at the start of the book?
- What type of person is the character at the end of the book?
- What happens to create this change?
- When did these revelations or changes in behaviour occur in the book?
- What does the character believe at the start of the book?





- What is believed by the end of the book?
- What brings about this change in view?
- What is the character hiding (or what is hidden from her) at the start of the book?
- What is revealed by the end of the book?
- What emotional sacrifices are made over the course of the book?

## Analyse the Draft

If your first draft is clean and the plot is working, you might be ready to revise after doing the editorial and character arc maps (if so, please skip this). If the manuscript needs more attention, spend some time analysing its strengths and weakness and decide what will best serve your story and help turn your manuscript into a nice, healthy novel.

You don't need to fix the problems now – this analysis is for identifying problem areas and directing your revision.

Things to look for (potential issues include, but are not limited to):

- Weak goal-conflict-stakes structures: this could indicate a plot or narrative drive issue
- Lack of character motivation: this could indicate a character arc or credibility issue
- Sparse or missing descriptions: this could indicate a clarity or world-building issue
- Heavy (or missing) backstory: this could indicate a pacing or character issue
- Too many infodumps: this could indicate a pacing or show-don't-tell issue
- Slow or uneven pacing: this could indicate a narrative drive or pacing issue
- Lack of hooks: this could indicate a tension, narrative drive, or premise issue
- Faulty logic: this could indicate a plausibility or plotting issue





- Weak or missing foreshadowing or clues: this could indicate a tension, tone, or description issue
- Areas that need more emotion: this could indicate an internalisation issue
- Weak characters and character arcs: this could indicate a character or internal conflict issue
- Weak scene structure: this could indicate a plot or structure issue
- Lack of narrative drive: this could indicate a pacing or goals issue
- Inconsistent point of view: this could indicate a narrative, character, or show-don't-tell issue
- Weak dialogue: this could indicate an infodump, dialogue, or character issue

If you're unsure what to specifically look for, try answering the following questions – try to be as objective as you can:

- Is the point-of-view character(s) likable or interesting enough to read about?
- Are their goals clear so there's narrative drive in the story?
- Do the characters seem real?
- Are there strong and interesting stakes?
- Is there too much back story, exposition, or description?
- Is the overall structure holding together?
- Does the opening scene have something to entice readers to keep reading?
- Do the scene and chapter endings entice readers to turn the page?
- Is the pacing strong?
- Are the plots, stakes, and goals believable?
- Does it read well overall?
- Do sentences flow seamlessly or do any stick out and read awkwardly?
- Are the dialogue tags clear?
- Does the world seem fleshed out?

After the analysis, you should have a good idea of what areas need work.

