

Write That Story Now! A Quick-Start Guide

Move through the following steps without overthinking. These are ancient/primal storytelling energies you are gathering. So, let your intuition work freely and easily by grabbing the first ideas that come to you.

1. Choose a working title.
2. Label it a comedy or tragedy. Do not think of genres here (romance, thriller, war story, etc.), just declare if this story is dead serious or lighthearted. It might be a mix of both, but you must make a binary decision at this moment as to which one is stronger: comedy or tragedy. Don't look it up in the dictionary, just choose.
3. Now choose your genre (sci-fi, family drama, dystopian, spy thriller, animal story, etc.)
4. Next decide if your dominant character is good or evil. This is another binary choice. We are looking for the character's primal psychological basis. Is this character fundamentally ethical or unethical? Of course, all characters are a complex blend of many things, but in this moment, you must make a primal choice of this person being in the right or in the wrong.
5. Identify your character's basic personality type. For example, is this person stingy, generous, kind, cruel, self-centered, or open-hearted, etc.? This is not a matter of good or evil. A character can appear generous, who is quite evil just as one might appear stingy, who is nonetheless good.
6. Now imagine that all of your characters were members of one large extended family. Name the symbolic "tribal role" your main character would fill. What energy does this person project on a primal/familial level. Is this a grandmother, father, stepmother, daughter, aunt, half-brother, etc.? A character need not appear as an actual stepfather in the story to project that kind of energy. You are thinking in terms of an ancient tribe.
7. What is the protagonist's name? Names are powerful things and must reflect the personality of the named. After you complete this guide in its entirety, check the ancient meaning of the name to see if it aligns with your idea of this

character. If you've picked a name that doesn't fit on a primal level, that character will take over your story in time and change it to fit the name. It very well could run you smack hard into writer's block. Using a name origin resource that offers the ancient meaning of names, you can search for a name based on the traits you've chosen above.

8. Choose the social function of your character within a primal tribe. Even a seemingly homogenous group of people will yield a great diversity of social functions such as: healer, craftsperson, farmer, protector, rule enforcer, shaman, gatekeeper, peacemaker, soldier, watchman, etc. How does your character's profession in the modern world translate into that of a primal one?

In the chart below, fill in your answers for questions 4-8.

Character Traits	Protagonist	
4. Good or Bad/ethical/unethical		
5. Dominant personality		
6. Tribal Role		
7. Name and meaning		
8. Social Function		

Once you are finished with all the points above, and not before, label the top row of the last column, "antagonist." Now find the antonym or opposite for the answers you gave for the protagonist. You can turn to a dictionary of antonyms for help.

When you are finished you have created the first pulse of sustained energy for your story. When you put two opposites together, sparks begin to fly and fire soon roars. These characters will naturally create conflict. So, that's an easy start. It's enough to get you going.

If you want more guidance, download the [free sample chapters](#) from the bookstore on this website. Better yet, buy the book for a guide you will never outgrow!