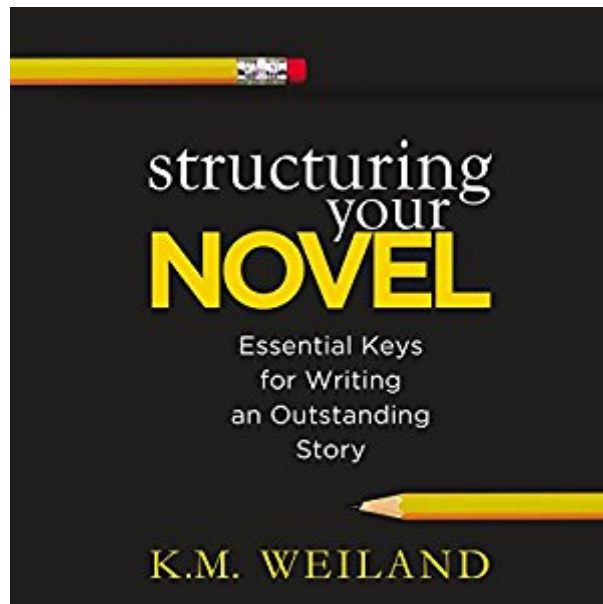


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# Structuring Your Novel: Essential Keys For Writing An Outstanding Story



## Synopsis

Is Structure the Hidden Foundation of All Successful Stories? Why do some stories work and others don't? The answer is structure. In this IPPY and NIEA Award-winning guide from the author of the bestselling *Outlining Your Novel*, you will discover the universal underpinnings that guarantee powerful plot and character arcs. An understanding of proper story and scene structure will help you to not only perfectly time your story's major events, but will also provide you with an unerring standard to use in evaluating your novel's pacing and progression. *Structuring Your Novel* will show you: How to determine the best methods for unleashing your unique and personal vision for your story. How to identify common structural weaknesses and flip them around into stunning strengths. How to eliminate saggy middles by discovering your "centerpiece." Why you should NEVER include conflict on every page. How to discover the questions you don't want readers asking about your plot-and then how to get them to ask the right questions. Story structure has empowered countless bestselling and classic authors. Now it's your turn!

## Book Information

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Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills

## Customer Reviews

As a beginning fiction writer, I read lots of books on writing `how to's. Most of these books that I find most helpful cluster around topics related to plotting, character development, and story telling. I soon learned that story structure and plot are tied together, so regardless of the genre you are writing in, making your plot work within your story structure is absolutely key to keeping your reader engaged and continuing to turn the pages of your story. K.M. Weiland's new book, `Structuring Your Novel:

Essential Keys for Writing an Outstanding Story` breaks new ground. This book bridges the gap between story structure for movies and structure that works for novels and short stories. Ms. Weiland knows whereof she speaks; she is the author of three published novels as well as several short stories, as well as a previous non-fiction book, `Outlining Your Novel.` I purchased that book, and it led me to her very useful teaching web site, which I have been following for some time. In her new book, `Structuring Your Novel,` Ms. Weiland discusses the principles of structuring your story as a whole, but then in the second half of the book, she breaks new ground -- at least it was new to me-- by detailing out the structuring principles at the level of a story's individual scenes. It turns out there is quite a bit to know about how to structure and order scenes so as to be successful in getting your reader to continue turning the pages. Ms. Weiland gives a very complete treatment to this, and I haven't seen any other book that gives as much information on this topic as she does. `Structuring Your Novel...' is chock full of concrete examples of the concepts the author presents.

What I Loved I learned a lot just from the Table of Contents--and that was how I knew I was going to be fascinated by the rest of K.M. Weiland's latest release, *Structuring Your Novel: Essential Keys for Writing an Outstanding Story*. "Story structure is deeply instinctual. Most readers don't know a thing about structure; but they do know when a story doesn't work because something in its structure is off. Same goes for authors. Many successful authors write without any knowledge of structure, and their stories still work because they're instinctively following the tenets of structure without even being aware of it." -- Chapter 13 I was right. It only took me a few days to read this book, which is saying something when it comes to me and nonfiction. K.M. Weiland offers a thorough breakdown of what story structure means--a daunting task. Plus, she does it without being dry, boring, or overwhelming. I thought the terms and information would send my brain into overload, but Weiland remained witty and clear throughout. Full of examples of what she means, illustrations of her points, and applicable advice for writers who want to grasp what it means to structure their novel, this book is an excellent resource for plotters and pantsers, those who are familiar with the three-act structure and those who are not (yet). What I Didn't Like As Much During the first half of the book, I wished that the examples Weiland chose (which include *Pride and Prejudice* and *It's A Wonderful Life*) were slightly younger. I wanted to see her dissect *The Hunger Games* or one of her own novels, but over the course of the book, I began to appreciate what she was doing--using examples that had half a chance of being familiar to a wide audience.

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