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The Writer's Compass: From Story Map to Finished Draft in 7 Stages

By Nancy Ellen Dodd

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Map out your idea and finish your story in 7 stages!

This book will show writers how to develop their ideas into a finished novel by working through it in 7 stages, while learning how to mapping out their story's progress and structure so they can evaluate and improve their work. It teaches writers to visualize their story's progress with a story map that helps them see all the different components of their story, where these components are going, and, perhaps most importantly, what's missing.

The book simplifies Aristotle's elements of good writing (a.k.a. that each story should have a beginning, a middle and an end) into easily applicable concepts that will help writers improve their craft. The author helps readers strengthen their work by teaching them how to focus on one aspect of their story at a time, including forming stories and developing ideas, building strong structures, creating vibrant characters, and structuring scenes and transitions. Thought-provoking questions help writers more objectively assess their story's strengths and weaknesses so they may write the story they want to tell.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

The Writer's Compass is my way of sharing what I've learned with other writers and to encourage them. It is a comprehensive book filled with exercises and questions to assist writers at all levels. There are three ways to approach *The Writer's Compass*:

- Reading through the book will give writers new information and new writing techniques.
- Doing some of the exercises and answering some of the questions will teach writers new skills.
- Answering all of the questions and doing all the exercises will develop the writer's skills to a new level.

From the Back Cover

How do you tell the story you want to tell and capture your audience's heart? Regardless of genre or format, to tell your story effectively you must first sort through all the ideas you've been toying with--organize them, whip them into shape, and turn them into great writing. Whether you're writing a novel, a short story, a play, or a screenplay, the 7 stage approach of *The Writer's Compass* allows you to focus on one aspect of your story at a time--including forming and developing ideas, building strong structures, creating vibrant characters, and structuring scenes and transitions. The path of a writer isn't always easy. Let *The Writer's Compass* be your north star by simplifying a wealth of writing advice into easily applicable concepts that will help you improve your craft.

About the Author

Nancy Ellen Dodd is a writer, editor, and university instructor teaching screenwriting and management communications at Pepperdine University. She also teaches writing workshops and serves as academic editor of the Graziadio Business Review at the Graziadio Business School at Pepperdine University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Catherine Scott:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called *The Writer's Compass: From Story Map to Finished Draft in 7 Stages*? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have additional opinion?

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Kathleen Owen:

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Laura Burke:

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