

30 Nanowrimo Prep Prompts

Before you do the 30 Nanowrimo Prep Prompts the first thing you need to do is pick a story. Then give these prompts a go. I suggest doing these in the month of October. Spend 100-500 words on each of these prompts or 5 to 10 minutes with a timer.

Character

- 1. How would my main character's friends and family describe him/her?
- 2. What is the worst thing I could do to my main character that will work in my story and why?
- 3. How do I want my readers to feel about my main character by the end of the book?
- 4. What is my main character's want, need, goal, biggest obstacle, fear, and dream?
- 5. What is their deep-down struggle that they need to solve? How can I help them solve this problem with the plot of my story?

Setting

- 1. Where do we first start in your story? Spend a few minutes describing that place without telling us where it is from your main character's point of view. Use their emotions and how they feel about the place to give it more vibrancy.
- 2. Find a picture that looks like where the midpoint of your story takes place in your book and SHOW us that scene. Describe it in a way that we will want to go there.
- 3. Where does the climax of your story take place? Show us what that place looks like from your point of view character's perspective.
- 4. Spend a minute having some fun learning more about your main character. Where would they like to spend all of their time? This place may or may not be in the book, but let us see them in that space.
- 5. Spend some time searching for a picture of your setting where you will spend the most time in your book. Print it out and tape it in a notebook or above your desk. Spend time really trying to capture that picture in words. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Can you write that much about this important place?

Description

- 1. Describe what your main characters look like?
- 2. How do they walk and act?
- 3. Describe something important in your story. Is it an object, or a place? What does it look like?
- 4. Describe the feelings your main character has for the other characters in your book. How would they show it?
- 5. Describe some of your antagonist's backstory. Do they have a certain object that gives them power or represents why they are the way they are?

Action

- 1. Show us how your main character would move in a tense situation.
- 2. Show us how your main character would move in an embarrassing situation.
- 3. Show us a fight scene with your main character, and remember to pull in all of the action
- 4. How does your antagonist move? Are they fluid or rough? Are they clumsy or graceful?
- 5. What would your antagonist do if their favorite thing in the world was threatened?

Internal Dialogue

- 1. What does the main character think about themselves, inside their head, when no one is around them?
- 2. What would your main character think if they were put into a dangerous situation?
- 3. What would your main character think if they were put into a situation with someone they are attracted to?
- 4. What will they think when their first big obstacle that comes up?
- 5. What will they think about the midpoint of your book?

Dialogue

- 1. Practice dialogue with one of your secondary characters.
- 2. Practice dialogue with the antagonist.
- 3. Practice dialogue with the character they spend the most time with.
- 4. Practice dialogue with one of your main character's parents.
- 5. Practice dialogue with a family member, theirs or one of their friends.