Write Right Now! With PeggySue Wells

Pivotal Plots

Plot is the main events of a story,
presented as an interrelated
(but not necessarily chronological) sequence.

Nine basic plots: Character vs

- self (Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*)
- God (Jonah)
- their destiny (Luke Skywalker in *Star Wars*)
- another character (Jean Valjean vs Inspector Javert in *Les Miserables*)
- environment (*The Perfect Storm*)

- society or culture (*Anne Frank* and *The Hiding Place*)
- machine (John Henry)
- situation or circumstance (The Good Samaritan)
- the unknown (*Star Trek*)

The Tenth and Best Plot

Several plots plus a time deadline the equivalent of a ticking bomb

Conflict Fuels Story

1) Conflict occurs when obstacles increase between the character we care about and the great need the character MUST achieve.

2) Heighten conflict through point of view (POV). Write scenes from the POV of the character who has the most to lose.

3) If your chapter is not working, change the POV.

4) Increase conflict and suspense by slowly and calculatedly dispensing key information throughout the story.

Drip key information through the three-act story format

Act 1: Introduction. (first quarter)

Bring in reader with strong hook
Jump into action
Present inciting incident
Introduce important characters
Introduce complications /obstacles
Set up the second act with a crisis

Act 2: Development (middle half)

Develop characters
Prevent character from achieving goal
Intensify tension
Provide crisis, the explosive moment that's been building,
to set up Act 3

Act 3: Resolution (final quarter)

Bring conflict front and center
Provide an ending worthy of your beginning
Do not rush the writing of the story
Climax: everything comes together
Epilogue: If needed to tie up loose ends

Keep Your Reader in Mind

The uncertainty about the fates of the characters we care about creates the tension and suspense that keeps your reader turning pages.

Interview and Conversation Prompts **https://bit.ly/2LPvv06**

PeggySueWells.com