

The Arc of the Trilogy

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Handout

Writing a trilogy isn't three times harder than writing a single book—it's maybe twenty times harder. But it's completely worth the effort. You'll have more fun than you can imagine and the rewards from the readers will dazzle you. This workshop will provide a step by step process for getting ready for the writing ride of your life!

**What's so great about your idea?**

Thinking big—do you have enough for three books?

Thinking small—know your pitch before you start.

Thinking smart—hooks and archetypes and surprises, oh my!

**Yes, you really are going to have plot this one.**

Plotting 101—for each book and the overriding story.

Pantsers survival—how to plot without really plotting.

Theme—don't look now, but it's lurking in the corner.

**Characters and why we love them.**

They can't be too different.

They can't be too much alike.

How many is too many?

Controlling a growing cast of thousands.

I have a favorite...what do I do now?

**Pssst...I have a secret.**

How much should you tell in book one? Book two?

How to plant hints for later reveals.

How to keep track of the information so everything gets wrapped up.

**Timing is everything.**

Making time your friend.

Reader time versus book time.

They were how old when that happened?

Time management for unruly characters.

Mallery/Arc of the Trilogy

**But I don't want to wait for the next book.**

Satisfying the reader with each book, while keeping them coming back for more.  
What you can wrap up and what you can't.  
Saving the best for last... sort of.

**Practical advice for managing that much information, paper, files, revisions.**

Finding a system that works for you.  
Doing left brain tasks from a right brain perspective.  
Places to get help.  
Time management for writers.