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GENRE EXPLORATION WORKSHEET



INTRODUCTION:

Writing a book isn't the easiest process out there. There are a lot of elements that go into what makes a great story and one of them is understanding what sort of genre you're going to be writing.

This worksheet was designed to help you decide what sort of genre you feel like you would enjoy writing for your next book. Just keep in mind that a genre is not a closed-off category that you need to stick to specific conventions for, but there are reader expectations that may impact what you end up writing.

I recommend that you also check out some of my genre-specific writing guides and workbooks like my [Ultimate Guide to Writing Romantasy](#) or my [Ultimate Pro's Guide to Writing Horror Stories](#) if you've decided on a specific genre.

QUESTIONS

On a piece of paper answer the following questions to help you figure out what genre is your best fit:

What kind of setting do you find the most interesting?

- a. Small towns, cafes, cozy libraries, college campuses
- b. Castles and enchanted or dark forests
- c. Secret labs and alien planets with neon cities
- d. Real-world locations
- e. War zones, morally gray kingdoms, haunted backlands

What kind of stories do you naturally find yourself daydreaming about?

- a. Two people falling in love
- b. A chosen one on a courageous quest
- c. A soldier in the middle of a high-tech battle
- d. A detective racing against time to find the murderer
- e. A person trapped in a nightmare-realm without any chance of escape?

What type of emotional payoffs are you looking for?

- a. Romantic tension
- b. Wonder and excitement
- c. Twists and shocking moments
- d. Thrills and tension-filled suspense
- e. Deep fear and psychological mind-bending

QUESTIONS

What do you personally enjoy writing the most?

- a. Dialogue and romantic tension
- b. World building with epic scenes
- c. Clever ideas and dramatic reveals
- d. Plot twists and mind-games
- e. Mood, dread, and dark conflicts

What kind of protagonists do you love the most?

- a. A cynic with a soft heart learning to love and trust
- b. A stubborn warrior with a prophecy to fulfill
- c. A misfit discovering the real truth behind it all
- d. A sharp mind trying to find an out
- e. A broken soul with a violent past

Pick a trope that you find yourself constantly enjoying

- a. Enemies to lovers
- b. The chosen one
- c. Time travel
- d. The killer was right there all along
- e. The final girl beats the serial killer

What tone fits your writing style the best?

- a. Hopeful and emotional
- b. Grand, immersive and epic
- c. Cool and calculating
- d. Sharp, gritty, action-packed
- e. Dark and intense

YOUR GENRE

Tally up your answers and find out which genre you fit the best:

Mostly A's → Romance, Romantasy, Contemporary Fiction

Mostly B's → Fantasy (any subgenre)

Mostly C's → Sci-Fi and similar speculative fiction genres

Mostly D's → Thriller, Mystery

Mostly E's → Horror, Dark Fiction, Grimdark

If you find that you had an equal balance between any answer categories, that might indicate that you could try your hand at a blended story!

CONCLUSION:

I hope this freebie helped give you an idea for what genre you would like to write!

If you liked this freebie, consider checking out my other guides over at <https://www.zainahyousef.com> and be on the lookout for my newsletter so you can get updates on all my new guides, books, WIPs, blog posts and more!

