

Random Plot Thoughts

**Hats, Armour, Bully-Pushover, Ruts, Performance,
Power/Accountability, Tradition, Practice, Team, Rules**

If you explore plot thoughts and ideas; could you tweak yourself just a bit, to be a more productive?

Some of us prefer to hang around in the background, following the herd, not getting caught up in controversy or negotiations, simply because the stressors add to our already busy schedules.

There is no 'cookbook' solution to writing a best seller. We all work and play hard, some more than others, due to our background, training, experience and learned behaviours.

Obstacles present themselves at inopportune times, challenges appear and disappear, friends/colleagues move on. Every one of us has an innate ability to erect our personal armour, or wear the thinking hat, to deflect or retard the stressors, and still find time for writing.

The KPIs (Key Performance Indicators), of 50 questions across 10 domains, are about random ideas, for seasoned authors, journeypersons and newbies.

Try to implement some indicators into your work. You can mix quality and quantity in your daily conversations and interactions.

Remember, these ideas are real ideas, mixed with random thoughts and a bit of humour.

Hats. Five key questions

1. **Style:** Thinking hats are powerful?
 Yes Possibly No
2. **Peek-a-boo:** Ha Ha. Caught you napping!
 Yes, I was led astray No, Just resting my brain.
3. **Capacity:** Is my head swollen with me, me, me?
 Yes, but I believe in myself. No, I gotta get a bigger hat.
4. **Scratch n Dent:** Too much surface area not enough depth?
 Yes, scratched the surface. Yes, too deep. Where was I going with this chapter?
5. **Pooh:** How deep am I?
 There isn't a shovel big enough. This plot hole is just _____.

Armour. Five key questions

1. **Medals & Ribbons:** I need a frame for my best seller certificate. Yay . . . resting on my laurels!
 Only one frame? Gotta quit resting . . . my laurels are getting a bit untidy.
2. **Lead:** I'm a best seller now, see my charisma?
 OK, so when's the celebration? Can't touch me, I'm the _____.
3. **Follow:** Your fancy Psychology won't work here.
 See my certificate! Don't help me, I'm perfect. Help me, I help you.
4. **Get out of my way:** Where is everyone? I must find them; don't they want a signed copy?
 I can write with my eyes closed. See Question 2.
5. **Acronyms:** TTFN, ICYMI, FOMO

I'm on Macquarie's Dictionary! No ELI5 here. #Whatever

Bully or Pushover. Five key questions

1. **Smiles:** Am I genuine when complementing others?
 Yes No, I do it because I have to.
2. **Graciousness:** I am uncomfortable receiving warranted praise?
 No What praise, you're kidding right?
3. **Deflection:** I am uncomfortable complimenting the lesser lights?
 Yes No, you should see my #%\$& list.
4. **Reflection:** I like to show off my legitimate best seller power?
 Yes Nah I'm revered by my peers. Depends on my audience
5. **Vicarious celebration:** I don't mind others winning, as long as I get introduced first.
 Yes No, someone got the system rigged.

Ruts. Five key questions

1. **Ego:** I'm on the top step of the ladder.
 Maintenance is hard work. Damn I'm good!
2. **On the road:** I never deviate from a difficult next project?
 Well? No Except when _____
3. **Happy trails:** I can fudge the next book; they'll love it anyway.
 Yes, bestselling authors are exempt. Probably. Re-read Question 1.
4. **Equitable:** Can I maintain my elite status?
 Yes No fair changing the rules as we go Maybe.

5. **Green grass:** I hate the valley, couldn't the *&^% ball not roll back down?

Yes No

Performance. Five key questions

1. **Credibility:** Is my effort a selling point to my editor/publisher?

Yes, I hope so! Never get any feedback

2. **Altitude:** (Yes altitude) Should I get off my high horse and smell the roses?

Yes, check feedback No, I am already in the valley. Valley roses are stinky!

3. **Standard:** I don't need guidelines. I measure against my personal criteria?

I don't have a *performance* issue I'm on automatic.

4. **Evaluation:** No time, I'm number one remember!

Stay in my shadow. Likes and Dislikes are what again?

5. **Participation:** More book tours and signings? Do I have to?

Yes, but the ED/PUB/Agent buys the crayons. No

Power and Accountability. Five key questions

1. **Power:** Am I demonstrating legitimate influence as an elite author?

Check my social media scores. Define legitimate! I'm trying to!

2. **Personal:** Am I comfortable with the power?

No, but _____ Call me Dr. Nasty I have the power!

3. **External:** Should I encourage other writers?

Yes Well someone should, I think!

4. **Shareability:** Can I share my learnings and ideas without coercive/reciprocity power?
 Explain sharing again. But I just got the power. Are you sure coercive is spelled correctly.
5. **Little boxes:** Is my personality affected by which group I interact with?
 No, but _____ No, I'm in the club. Go away!

Tradition. Five key questions

1. **Spotlight:** I told them!
 Only 4 of 5 star; stupid readers. Dumb judges Don't get me started!
2. **Pubs & Eds:** What do they know about writing?
 Huh, you're paying me based on a chart? Are you new here? Maybe I should ask?
3. **Favourite flavour:** ABC = XYZ
 Don't tell me how to write MY books What do you mean, it's stale?
4. **Outline:** Yup 45,000 words; check.?
 Simple job It's my *%*& book buddy!
5. **Pre-Launch Meeting:** Do I have to?
 Yes No. Same stuff, different day.

Practice. Five key questions

1. **Trainer:** Teach some newbie to write a best seller?
 Are you out of your mind? Can I help?
2. **Training:** Why is my editor/publisher asking me to be the trainer?
 They named "Don't ever write about that" after me! Those who can't . . . Teach.
 Are you suggesting I'm not your best asset anymore?
3. **Ability:** Can I really shove the willing into writing?

I need to demonstrate Status Power No, I'm a resource.

4. **Evaluation:** DILLIGAF!* * Does it look like I give a &^%\$.

Nobody reads them anyway. Who gave 0 out of 5.

5. **Participation:** Do I have to be there? Gotta like coffee and doughnuts!

Team Five key questions

1. **Smarter than the average bear:** Can I take career risks without feeling embarrassed?

Yes As long as I'm not the only one. What do I know about that genre?

2. **Dependability:** Can I work with people I cannot manipulate?

Yep. Baffle with Brilliance No. See Question 4.

3. **Structure:** Are my writing goals and execution plan clear?

Yes No

4. **Importance:** Has the PUB/ED team any significant members I can learn from?

Yes I am the greatest See Question 2

5. **Impact of work:** Do I believe that the books I write matter?

Geez, I hope so Don't get no respect! Nah, its all about the cash.

Rules. Five key questions

1. **Ethics:** Will anyone know if I recycle plot after plot?

Yes Nobody really cares. Would anyone know if I use AI to write?

2. **Critical tasks:** Do I really need to do an outline and character development again?

Yes, I need to know where I'm going. Can I get paid by the word?

3. **Truth or Consequences:** Do I need to write a book every year?

Yes, I want to get paid. No, my contract doesn't spec that.

4. **ED and PUB and Agent:** Do they even know how to write a best seller?

Wait . . . you're charging me more! OK . . . the more I write, the more you sell, more \$\$.

5. **Brick and Mortar:** If it weren't for me, this outfit would be a disaster?

OH YEAH, Just watch me! Hmm . . . I see your point.