

League of Romance Writers ~ The Emily Contest ~ Judge's Reference Recommendation List

If you read an entry with a particular craft problem, here are some craft reference recommendations to offer entrants. All books are available at Amazon and other retailers. Feel free to refer your entrants to your favorite reference books and sites!

Overall Craft:

Techniques of the Selling Writer	Dwight V. Swain	the words, facts about feelings, building conflict, story strategy & elements, beginning, middle & end, characterizations, setting
Self Editing for Fiction Writers	Browne & King	show & tell, characterization & exposition, POV, proportion, dialogue mechanics, interior monologue, voice
How to Write a Damn Good Novel	James N. Frey	characterization, conflict, the premise, ABC's of storytelling, the climax, POV, flashbacks, dialogue, and revision
The First Five Pages	Noah Lukeman	presentation, adjectives & adverbs, sound, comparison, style, dialogue, showing versus telling, viewpoint & narration
Just Write	James Scott Bell	what readers want, develop your ideas, memorable characters, story & structure, exposition & backstory, conflict, studying craft

Scene, Plot & Structure:

Scene and Structure	Jack Bickham	scene & sequel, plotting, and structure
Write Great Fiction – Plot & Structure	James Scott Bell	plot, structure, beginnings, middles & ends, scenes, character arcs, plotting systems, patterns, problems & cures

Goal, Motivation & Conflict:

GMC: Goal, Motivation and Conflict, The Building Blocks of Good Fiction	Debra Dixon	who, what, why, and why not, goal, motivation, conflict, heightening conflict, big black moments, scenes, brainstorming
Elements of Fiction Writing – Conflict & Suspense	James Scott Bell	foundation & structure, POV & conflict, opening with conflict, subplots, flashbacks & backstory, inner conflict, cliff hangers

Voice:

Finding Your Voice: How to Put Personality in Your Writing	Les Edgerton	how writers lose their original voice, changing your writing style, elements of voice, seize control of your story
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Emotions:

Writing for Emotional Impact	Karl Iglesias	evoking emotions, types of storytelling emotions, character emotion versus reader emotion; mesmerizing moments
The Emotion Thesaurus: A writer's Guide to Character Expression	Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi	conveying emotion to the reader in unique, compelling ways; body language, thoughts, and visceral responses for each emotion

Characterization:

45 Master Characters: Mythic Models for Creating Original Characters	Victoria Lynn Schmidt	archetypes, why and how writers should use them; creating heroes, villains, and supporting characters
The Negative Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Flaws	Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi	building flawed characters that readers will love; building layered and memorable characters from the ground up
The Positive Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Attributes	Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi	shaping characters worth rooting for; real examples from literature, film, or television to show how an attribute drives actions and decisions

Grammar & Punctuation:

The Elements of Style	Strunk & White	elementary rules of usage, principles of composition, matters of form, words & expressions commonly misused, an approach to style
The Chicago Manual of Style	University of Chicago Press	standard reference tool for authors, editors, copywriters, and proofreaders; current practices and requirements of the great majority of American publishers

Humor:

The Comic Toolbox: How to be Funny Even if You're Not	Jon Vorhaus	Comic premise, characters, stories, through line, practical jokes, comedy & jeopardy, situation comedy, sketch comedy
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