



Plot Your Novel

TEACHING - OUTLINING - EVALUATIONS



PLOT YOUR NOVEL

# ALL ABOUT Loglines



INCLUDING PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

# ★ Four Ingredients for a killer logline ★

## **So what's a logline and how can it help you write a great story?**

A logline is your basic premise in one sentence. My formula for making one covers four things: setting, character, goal, and conflict, but not necessarily in that order.

**Setting:** This refers to when and where your story is taking place.

This can be the time, the place, or even during or after an event, for example, after a war.

Example: **In a magical kingdom**, a princess must unite her people against a dark force threatening their land. *Throne of Glass* by Sarah J. Maas

**Character:** This is who the story is about. You don't need a name at this stage but try to include something that makes your protagonist seem interesting.

Example: **A young witch** struggles to control her newfound powers while facing an ancient evil. *A Discovery of Witches* by Deborah Harkness

**Goal:** This is what your character is trying to achieve or get.

Example: A talented space pilot embarks on a journey to **save her planet from an alien threat**. *Star Wars: A New Hope*

**Conflict:** This is the main problem that's making things difficult for your character.

Example: A lone astronaut awakens on a ship deep in space, **his crewmates dead, and his memories missing**, knowing he must complete a last-chance mission to save Earth from disaster. *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir



# Examples from K-dramas

I've made a couple of tweaks on some of these to show more clearly the setting, character, goal, and conflict, but the majority of the content remains unchanged.

## **Gyeongseong Creature**

Setting: In the Spring of 1945 in Gyeongseong during Japanese rule over Korea,

Characters: two young adults

Goal: fight for survival

Conflict: against a strange creature born of greed.

## **Divorce Attorney Shin**

Setting: After a personal tragedy,

Character: a pianist-turned-lawyer

Goal: navigates the complex world of divorce -

Conflict: fighting for his clients to win by any means necessary.

## **Yu Yu Hakusho**

Setting: When a teenager dies while saving a young kid,

Character: he

Goal: is given a chance to be resurrected,

Conflict: provided he works for the Spirit World as an investigator of supernatural crimes with his newly-given powers.



# K-dramas cont.

## **The Worst of Evil**

Setting: In the 1990s,

Character: a police officer

Goal: goes undercover to infiltrate a mega crime syndicate that distributes illegal drugs across South Korea, China, and Japan

Conflict: and discovers his wife, a narcotics officer, is also involved.

## **Evilive**

Setting: After an upright lawyer is unjustly wronged by his previous firm,

Character: he (the upright lawyer)

Goal: finds himself slipping into an underbelly of crime (implied this is unwilling)

Conflict: after taking on a notorious criminal as a client.

## **Welcome to Samdairi**

Setting: After suffering a fall from grace,

Character: a photographer

Goal: returns to her hometown

Conflict: and bumps into her childhood friend, rekindling an unfinished romance. (the romance is unfinished, hinting at past conflict)

## **My Demon**

Setting: After meeting an icy heiress,

Character: a pitiless demon who has lost his powers,

Goal: learns she may hold the key to his lost abilities --

Conflict: and his heart.

# Bits and pieces

You can use these pieces to practice with. Don't forget, you can move them around in a different order. The most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the process.

## Setting

- In a futuristic city,
- On a distant planet ravaged by war,
- After a deadly plague devastates England,
- At his/her best friend's engagement party,
- On the eve of the Presidential elections,

## Character

- a young witch
- a cyber-detective
- a rogue knight
- a divorced mother/father of two
- an introverted hacker

## Goal

- must solve a high-profile murder case
- attempts to overthrow a tyrannical ruler
- searches for a legendary artifact
- meets the man/woman of his/her dreams
- learns of an insidious coup

## Conflict:

- amidst a power struggle for control of the land.
- during an alien invasion that could destroy the world.
- while confronting a traitorous ally.
- while being hunted by a relentless assassin.
- as an ancient evil reawakens.