





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**

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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 --

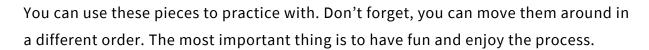
Conflict: and his heart.

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#### Setting

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- 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.