



# FICTIONALIZE

Writing Your Personal Story As Fiction

Planner

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# Your Personal Fictionalize *Planner*

## *Introduction*

The story you're living is as unique as your DNA. While others may share similar experiences, nobody perceives those experiences exactly like you do. Nobody shares your insights. But sometimes sharing your story factually, for myriad reasons, is difficult.

Enter fiction.

If you've taken the step to download this planner, I hope you'll continue to move forward and complete the pages included here. Take time to really consider your story and the aspects you most want to share with others.

Once you've worked through the planner, you'll have a foundation for a fictionalized version of your story. Then I encourage you to set the planner aside for a time and let your imagination soar...

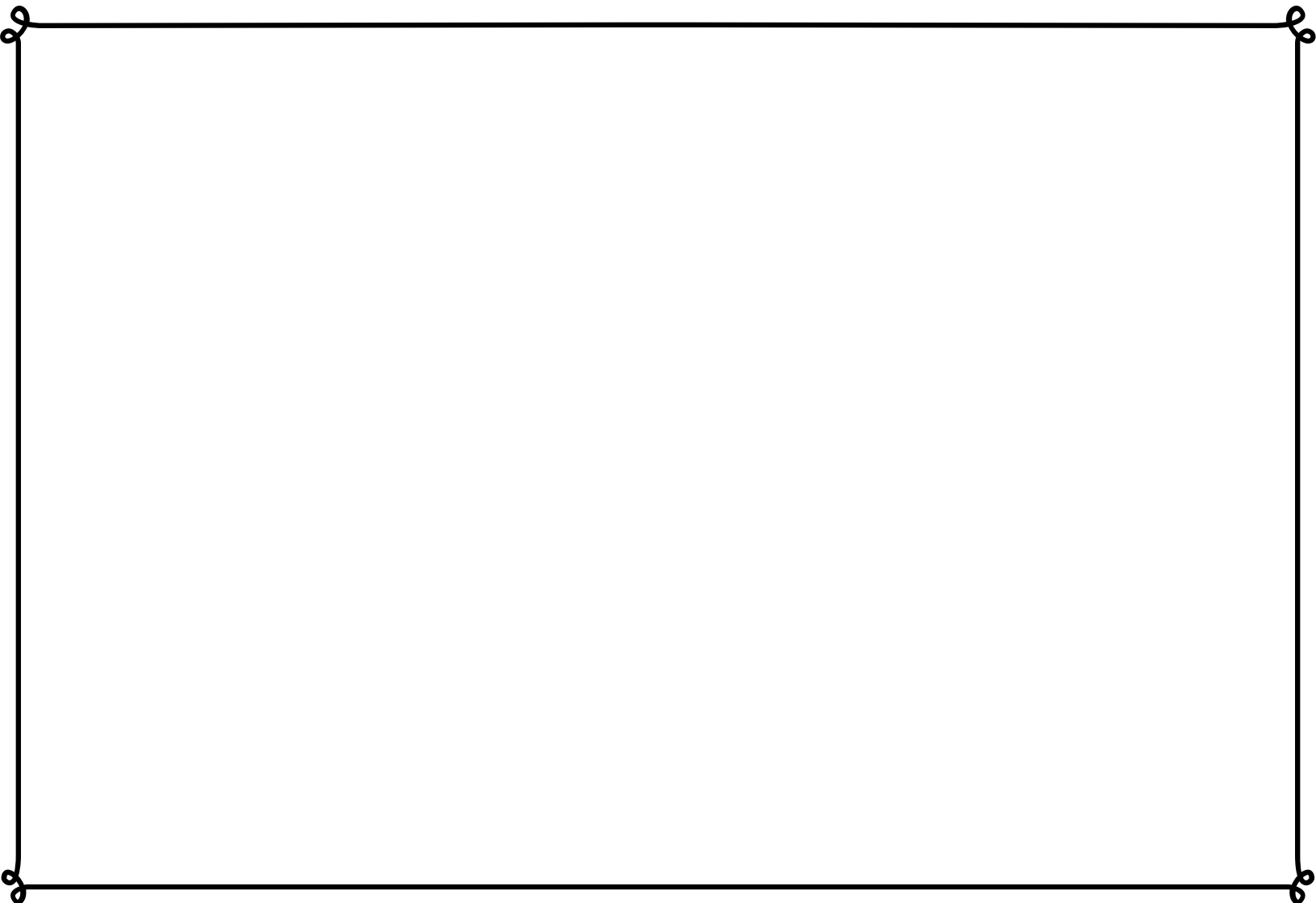
*It's Your Story...*

# Let's Get Started

## Seasons

Like writing a memoir, a fictional account of your story will encompass a season of your life - or a series of events - rather than your entire life story.

In the space below, list seasons or events you might use for a novel.



**TIP:**

Your life story may yeild more than one novel. You may want to complete a planner for each season listed.

# What's Your Theme?



**TIP:**

Verses from Scripture that were meaningful during a particular season may lead you to a theme. For example, in my novel *Words*, I based the theme on John 8:32.

Novels include themes - sometimes there's one theme, sometimes there are multiple themes. I like to think of the theme as a thread woven through the story. Common themes include love, death, power, etc. In novels written for the Christian marketplace, the themes are redemptive in nature - forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope, to name a few.

It also seems that God often weaves a theme throughout our lives or our seasons of growth and transformation. Consider the seasons you listed in the previous section and assign a theme, or several themes, for those seasons.

**1**

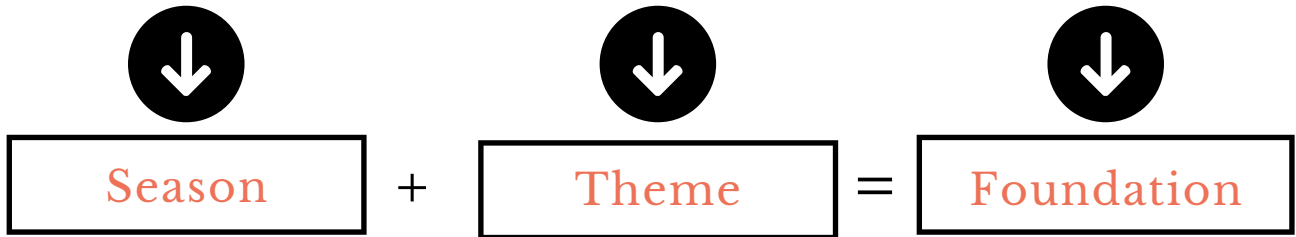
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# Formula



Once you've decided on the season of your life you're going to fictionalize and have chosen a theme or themes, you're set to begin creating a story based on the foundation you've established.

Fictionalizing a piece of your story is a little different than writing a novel based on a story from your imagination. While the two share more in common than not, I've discovered that when you write about something you've lived, your focus, your passion even, becomes the theme or the message you hope to impart to your readers.

But in fiction, story is king. It trumps themes or messages. So you must, first and foremost, craft an engaging story with characters your readers will root for and love. The theme you thread through the story, when done well, will enhance the story, and will impact those with "eyes to see and ears to hear."

# Now What?

Now that you have your foundation - the season of your life and your theme(s) - I want you to begin thinking of your foundation as the concept for a story you'll write rather than your own story. Make sense? The foundation simply informs the novel you'll write.

However, there are elements from your season you'll want to include in the novel. I call those elements the FACTS. The "facts" will add authenticity to your plot, and especially to the characters you create.

One of the comments I hear frequently from readers about the novels I've based on seasons of my own life is: "You must have lived this story to make it feel so real." Well, I didn't live the plot of any of those novels, but I did share some of the experiences my characters experienced, and I definitely felt many of the emotions I assigned to those characters.

When writing fiction, you want your story to so engage readers that they willingly "suspend disbelief" - they become so engrossed in the story you've written they are willing to experience it as believable. Adding the "facts" from your own life will draw your readers into the story and help them suspend disbelief even if what you've created is a fantastical science fiction tale set in a story world of your own imagining.

So what are the "facts"? I thought you'd never ask!

F A C T S

# Just The Facts

Here are the "facts" you'll want to include in the fictionalized version of your story.

**Ferver:** The emotional intensity or passion your season evoked.

**Action:** Events or experiences from your season that translate well to fiction.

**Character Arc:** The growth or change you experienced during your season.

**Tension:** Whatever was unresolved during your season - a question or circumstance.

**Soul:** The emotions you experienced during your season.

# Your Facts

Use this space to note details from your season for each category.

Ferver:

Action:

Character Arc:

Tension:

Soul:

# Moving Forward

Now that you have your foundation and have noted some of your facts, you can begin creating your novel.

Take a look at your notes under tension. What question or issue can you develop and use as your hook? What will need resolving in the novel you write?

Some of your facts may also help you determine the genre. For example, if your notes are heavy in action, you may consider an epic adventure or a suspense or thriller novel. Is your character arc portent with meaning? Did it include an emotional, interior journey? If so, study some women's fiction and see what ideas come to mind. Or does a young adult dystopian novel hold possibilities?

Your character arc - some of the growth or changes you experienced during your season - can be assigned to the protagonist of your story. What type of person is she? Or he? Does your protagonist's growth mirror your own or will you make changes to their character arc?

The possibilities are endless!



**TIP:**

Find a novel you love and use it as a template for the novel you'd like to write.

# What's Next?

Over the next several weeks you'll receive a weekly email from me with brief videos on fiction writing tips you can apply to your manuscript.

Watch for news of my fiction writing course coming soon. I'll teach you how to write a novel readers won't want to put down.

## *In the meantime...*

- read and study great fiction.
- read fiction craft books.
- subscribe to some of your favorite fiction writers newsletters or blogs.
- subscribe to a few literary agents' blogs.
- join a critique group in your area or online.
- work with a fiction coach.
- attend a writers conference.
- brainstorm your novel!

# Brainstorm

Use this space to jot down ideas for your fictionalized story.  
Titles, plot points, characters, whatever. Let your mind  
wander...



**TIP:**

Some of the best ideas come to us when we're engaged in a mundane task. So if you're stuck, go do something and then come back and write down your ideas.

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# Let's Connect

If you've decided to fictionalize a piece of your own story, I'd love to hear from you. Either drop me an email through my website [www.ginnyytrup.com](http://www.ginnyytrup.com) or follow me on social media and contact me there. I look forward to hearing from you!

