

15 Extra Writing Tips to Improve Your Fiction

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[70+ Small Tweaks to Improve Your Fiction](#)

1. Throw an obstacle in the way if you don't want to kill a character off. Throwing a banana peel on the path will force your characters to fall or act quickly.
2. Give your protagonist an external and internal conflict in every scene. [Learn more about internal and external conflicts here.](#)
3. Always be aware of what your main characters (i.e. the protagonist and antagonist) want in every scene of your novel. When you're clear, your reader will be, too.
4. Cut lengthy descriptions because they can slow the pace and make for an uneven reading experience.
5. Show how the characters are feeling by describing what they're doing.
6. Take a break (of at least 2 weeks) before you edit your first, second, and third drafts.
7. Write to move yourself. If you don't feel sad, happy, scared, or otherwise for your characters, your reader won't either. You need to be moved if you expect your reader to be affected, also.
8. Take a notebook with you wherever you go because you **will** forget your marvelous new idea.
9. Disconnect from the Internet when it's time to write.
10. Don't use exclamation points! (Okay, you can use them, but only twice in your entire book, so choose wisely.)
11. Journal from the perspective of your character.
12. Watch a movie or documentary that is similar to your subject matter.
13. Remove passive language.
14. Give yourself a short deadline to write your entire first draft. (A month is a healthy deadline.) A month may seem like a short time, but the idea is to get everything on paper so you have something to work with.
15. Loosely outline your chapter right before you start writing it.