**Six Distinctions in Motivating Characters:**

1. Distinguish between Author Motivation and Character Motivation:

1. Ask, “Why does the character commit this action?”

1.Author reasons- they help the book

2. Character reasons- they help the character

2. Distinguish between Proactive and Reactive:

1. Proactive- motivating TOWARDS something i.e. success

2. Reactive- motivating AWAY from something i.e. guilt

3. Distinguish between External and Internal:

1. External- universal i.e. survival, greed, dominance

2. Internal- more individualized i.e. revenge, spirituality, growth

4. Distinguish between Backstory and Story:

1. Backstory- everything that happened before the story begins.

2. Story- the actual action of the book.

5. Distinguish between Goal and Motivation:

1. Goal- concrete; indication of the motivation; the future

2. Motivation- is the past, pushes the character towards reaching the goal.

* **Motivation (especially internal motivation) often comes out of backstory, but the story itself plays out the  intermixing of motivation and conflict.**

6. Distinguish between Motivation and Action:

1. Motivation exists to inspire the character to make choices and take action.

2. Every action should be motivated.

**Character’s Goal**



1. You must determine your character’s goal, and why is that your character’s goal.
2. Think: what does your main character want? What are they trying to achieve?
   1. Once this is determined, you can create scenarios that will lead your character to possibly achieving this goal.
   2. This will link to your conflict: the conflict will try to interfere with the completion of your character’s goal.



**Character’s Motivation**

*Why does your character want that particular goal?*

*Why does your character do what he/she does?*

*What influences your character to take a particular action?*

* Character motivation influences every action your character takes.
* It must be something believable and truly motivating.
* The motivation usually comes out of the character’s backstory.