



Fiction Tips

I wrote fiction unsuccessfully for many years. What boosted me to publication was a class on *Scene Writing* by a former Hollywood scriptwriter.

Tips:

- Consider each **scene** as a mini-novel with a beginning, middle, and a climax. It should open with a unique setting and a character that wants something but can't have it. It should highlight ACTION and end with a climax that doesn't get resolved (i.e. a hook).
- Watch movies. (A great excuse!) Note set-up and highlighted action. Notice unique characters, settings, character tags, and dialogue. Then, as you write, watch your "movie" unfold in your mind.

My mode:

1. Start with a unique character. Mine have included:
 - a sympathetic Nazi wife who helps concentration camp victims
 - a thirteen-year-old musician who fakes his way into a camp orchestra
2. Research.
 - I read over fifty research books, memoirs, and I interview veterans or historical witnesses.
 - The "true" events in history help me build a riveting plot. I formulate my plot as I read. (With help of Randy Ingermanson's Snowflake method: www.rsingermanson.com)
 - I take notes to help with description, characterization, events, etc.
3. Write.
 - I know it's time when I close my eyes and I'm "there." I know my story, know my characters, and see my in-mind movie.
 - I write fast. Instead of trying to figure out what's next, the characters and story hurl me along and my fingers have trouble keeping up with them.