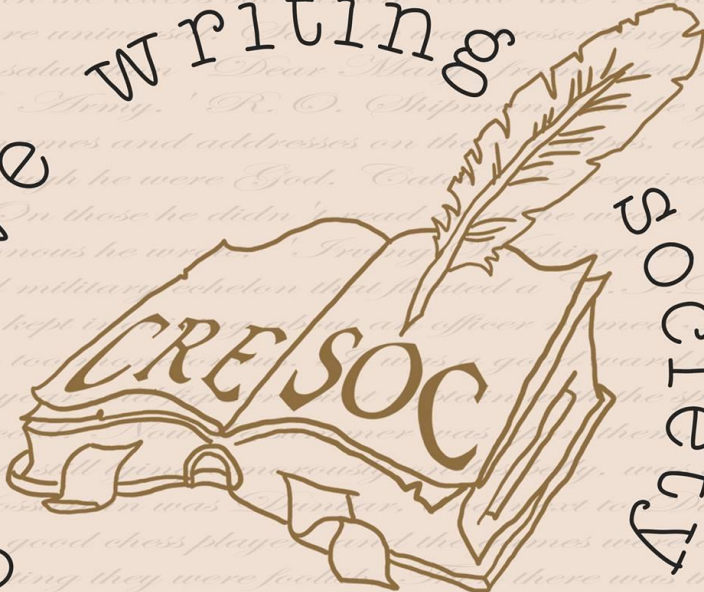


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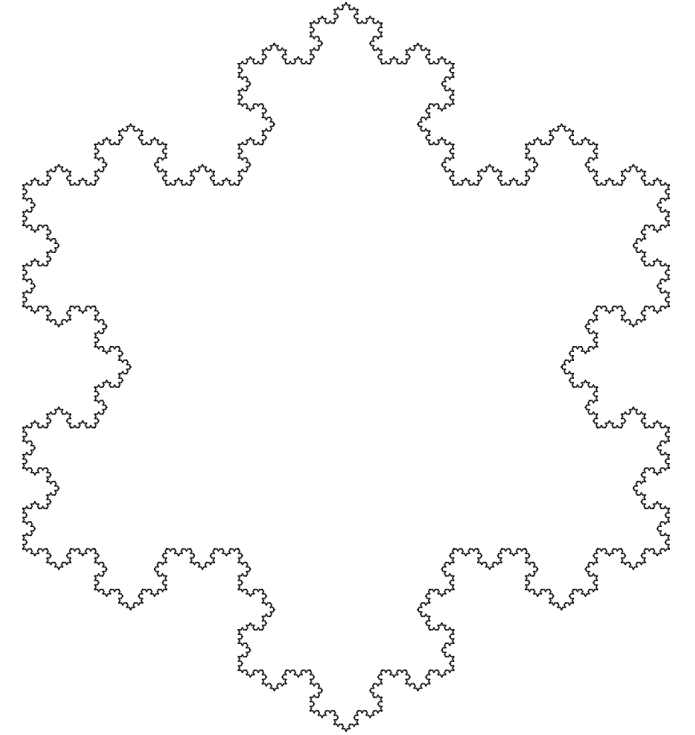
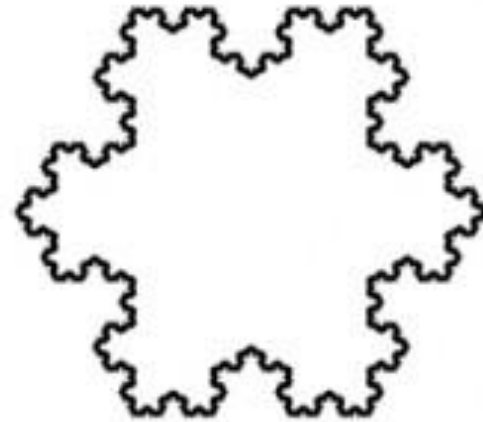
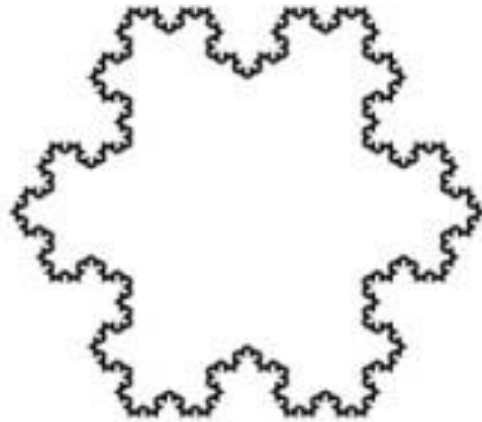
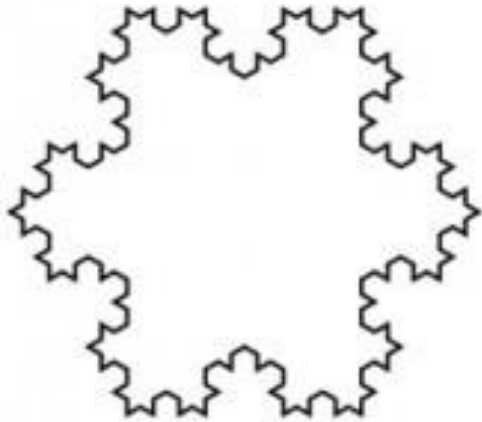
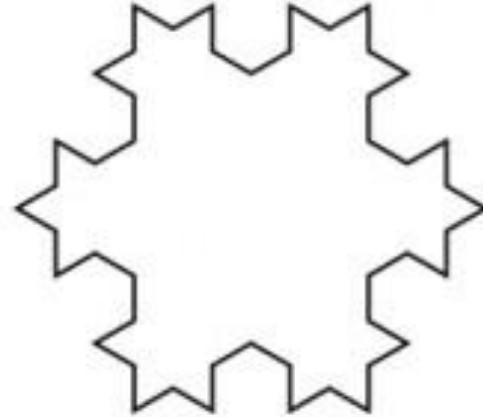
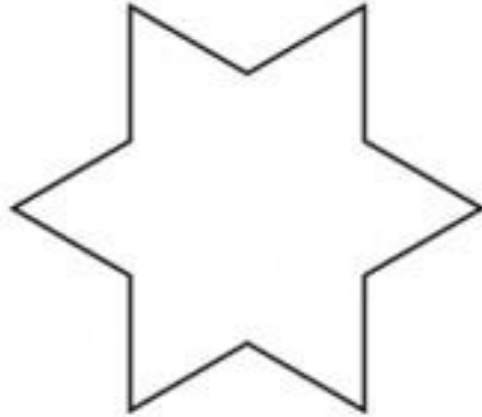
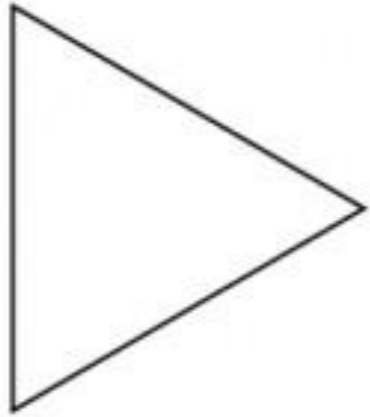
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Planning Workshop

The Snowflake method



The Snowflake method



The snowflake is a method for planning a novel (any other piece of writing that has characters and a plot), that as the previous picture demonstrates, starts from the very simple, and builds up into more and more detail.

What follows is a step by step break down of how you can use the snowflake for planning your novel, screen play, epic poem, whatever it is you want to write.

All you need is an idea. But all the steps outlined bellow are by no means compulsory (apart from the last one), just do whichever ones you feel will help you plan your story.

Step 1



Write you story in one sentence.

The shorter the sentence is the better, less than 15 words is preferable.

Do not use character names, try to describe the characters instead.

Step 2



Write your story in a paragraph.

About 5 sentences long: one for setup, one for each disaster, and one for the ending.

The second and third disasters are ideally caused by characters trying to fix things.

Step 3



Chose the main characters, Write:

The character's name

A one-sentence summary of the character's storyline

The character's motivation (what do they want subconsciously?)

The character's goal (what do they consciously want?)

The character's conflict (what is stopping them reaching their goal?)

The character's epiphany (what do they learn, how will they change?)

A one-paragraph summary of the character's storyline

Step 4



Write your story in one page.

Expand each of the sentences from step 2 into a paragraph.

Step 5



Chose you major characters.

Write your story from their point of view in one page.

This doesn't have to be in first person.

Focus on the characters motivations.

Step 6

Write your story in four pages.

This should roughly be expanding each paragraph from step 4 into a page.

Try to bring what you know about the plot and characters together.



Step 7

Write everything there is
to know about your
characters.



Step 7: you might want to answer these questions about your character:



What is your characters name?

Does the character have a nickname?

What is your characters hair colour? Eye colour?

What kind of distinguishing facial features does your character have?

Does your character have a birthmark? Where is it? What about scars? How did they get them?

Who are your characters friends and family? Who do they surround themselves with? Who are the people your character is closest to? Who do they wish they were closest to?

Where was your character born? Where have they lived since then? Where do they call home?

Step 7: some more questions:



Where does your character go when they're angry?

What is their biggest fear? Who have they told this to? Who would they never tell this to? Why?

Do they have a secret?

What makes your character laugh out loud?

When has your character been in love? Had a broken heart?

Then dig deeper by asking more unconventional questions:

What is in your characters refrigerator right now? On their bedroom floor? On their nightstand? In their bin?

Your character is getting ready for a night out. Where are they going? What do they wear? Who will they be with?

Step 7: even more questions:



Look at your characters feet.

Describe what you see there. Do they wear dress shoes, gym shoes, or none at all? Are they in socks that are ratty and full of holes? Or are they wearing a pair of blue and gold slippers knitted by their grandmother?

When your character thinks of their childhood kitchen, what smell do they associate with it? Sauerkraut? Oatmeal cookies? Paint? Why is that smell so resonant for them?

Your character is doing intense spring cleaning. What is easy for her to throw out? What is difficult for her to part with? Why?

Step 7: finally:



Its Saturday at noon. What is your character doing? Give details. If they're eating breakfast, what exactly do they eat? If they're stretching out in her backyard to sun, what kind of blanket or towel do they lie on?

What is one strong memory that has stuck with your character from childhood? Why is it so powerful and lasting?

Just answer as many as you want. Perhaps save the rest for when you have writers block as something to do.

Step 8

Split the four pages of your story into scenes and put them in a spreadsheet.

You should end up with a table with a row for each scene, and a column for: scene name; chapter number; POV of character (if it changes); description of what happens in the scenes.

Group the scenes into chapters after you have written the descriptions. It should be about three scenes a chapter.



Step 9



Write a very detailed description of your story.

Write each chapter in a couple of pages.

Include interesting dialogue.

Fresh out any conflict.

(I personally don't do this step, it's just a little too much detail for me)

Step 10



Write your first
draft!