

# Story Magic Worksheet



Stories, like illusions, are intended to intrigue, surprise, and delight. This storytelling technique follows the beats of a magic trick and can be used to help create your hook, write a log line / pitch, or begin your query letter.

## 1. Offer your readers an impossible promise.

Based on the key elements / conflict of your story, write down some intriguing promises you can make to your reader that seem, at first, impossible. Write this in your narrator's voice or the voice of your main character.

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## 2. Make it appear to be even worse than expected.

What's the biggest, most important twist in your story? ("Luke, I am your Father...") Emotionally or physically, how does that complication make success seem less likely than ever? Can you misdirect the reader one or two steps toward a different conclusion so that this moment shocks even more?

What Readers Think Will Happen:

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The Unexpected Twist that Happens Instead:

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Why It Hurts:

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## 3. Delight with an unexpected, but inevitable conclusion.

How do you solve the main conflict in an unexpected way? Write out as many resolutions to your main complication as you can think of. Cross out the ones someone else might expect.

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## 4. Put it all together in a single paragraph that hits your major story beats.

Impossible Promise + Shocking Twist that Makes it Worse + Unexpected Conclusion

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