QUERY PITCH WORKSHEET: DESCRIBING YOUR NOVEL'S PLOT

Goal:
Craft a 1–2 paragraph pitch describing the plot of your novel in a clear, compelling, and emotionally engaging way.

Step 1: Introduce Your Protagonist

- Who is the main character?
- What defines their life before the story starts?
- What's emotionally or situationally at stake for them?

Example:
[Name] is a [age] year-old [role/trait] who [something about their current life or struggle].

✎ _____

✎ _____

Step 2: The Inciting Incident

- What happens that disrupts their world?
- What choice or situation forces them into action?

Example:
Everything changes when [inciting event]. Now, [Name] must [initial goal or choice].

✎ _____

✎ _____

Step 3: The Central Conflict

- What is the main challenge or antagonist?
- What stands in the way of the protagonist's goal?
- What are the stakes?

Example:
But [obstacle/conflict arises], and if [Name] fails, [consequence or cost].

✎ _____

✎ _____

Step 4: Emotional or Thematic Stakes

- What internal struggle or growth does the protagonist face?
- What hard choice or emotional tension builds?

Example:
As the truth unravels, [Name] must decide whether to [moral/emotional dilemma].

✏️ _____

✏️ _____

Step 5: Make sure you include – Market Positioning

- What is the word count and genre?
- What two recent bestselling books is it similar to?

Example:
Complete at [word count] words, *[Title]* will appeal to fans of *[Book 1]* and *[Book 2]*.

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Tips

- Use present tense and active voice.
- Keep it between 150–250 words.
- Focus on the first third of the story—don't reveal the ending.
- Think emotional stakes, not just plot points.
- Avoid vague phrases like "things happen" or "a lot of twists."
- You are not summarizing—you're selling the story.

Provided by Amy Collins and https://agentshelpingauthors.com

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