

World-Building: A Multi-Genre How-To

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Defining World-Building

- I. What is World Building?
 - A. Merriam-Webster's Definition: the creation of a fictional world (especially within the science fiction and fantasy genres) that is believable and consistent within the context of the story
 - B. the process of creating the _____ for your story
through the perspective of the _____

- II. Why should you take time to build your world?
 - A. It helps to _____
 - B. It _____ your readers
 - C. It _____ your story

General Considerations for EVERY Genre

1. Begin from your _____
 - a. What do they notice using all _____
 - b. What is their _____ class?
 - c. What is their _____ in society?
 - d. How do they view others from different classes?
 - e. How do they feel about what they _____ etc?

2. Think about the actual setting
 - a. What is the _____?

- b. Is it _____ location?
 - c. What do people _____? How is it constructed?
 - d. What do people _____? How do they get their _____?
 - e. Does their _____ provide them any opportunities or disadvantages that people in _____ don't experience?
 - f. What _____ and _____ does the area have?
3. Think about the story culture
- a. What is the _____ structure? How does this impact the character?
 - i. Class systems
 - ii. Can they move between them?
 - b. What is the _____ structure? How does this impact the character?
 - i. How do people make a _____?
 - ii. How do they _____ things?
 - c. What is the _____ structure? How does it impact the character?
 - i. Democratic, republic, theocratic, monarchy, communism, dictatorship, etc
 - d. Does _____ play a part? What does that look like?
 - e. Does the culture have a _____ that impacts the character?

- f. Are there special _____?
- g. What is _____ by the culture? What is not?

Fantasy/Sci-Fi Specifics to Consider

- You get to decide _____ the things
 - Will you have _____? What are the rules?
 - Will you have _____?
- How do they interact with/impact your character?
- What _____ does the culture have? How does it impact them?
 - Is there an _____ that impacts the story/character?
 - Are there _____ that will impact your character?
 - Will you develop a _____ for the characters that you will sprinkle in?
 - <https://www.sfga.org/2009/08/04/fantasy-worldbuilding-questions/> - a list of great questions to guide you specifically

Historical Specifics to Consider

- Historical novels are fiction built on _____.
- _____ is going to be a huge part of your world-building.
- Use _____ of the time to gain a better understanding of the factual world your characters live in.
- Knowing the _____ of the time will greatly impact your character.

- Historical readers expect you to be _____

Contemporary Specifics to Consider

- _____ may not play as strong a role in your story
 - it is advisable to be politically neutral where _____
are NOT at risk
- You will still need to _____
- Every _____ has its own cultural expectations
- Use _____ settings
- Careers and regions have their own _____
- Not as much _____ is needed to anchor your reader
- _____ will date your book, so be careful how you use it.

Some Cautions

- World-building is a _____. Don't _____.
 - use your character's perspective to _____
 - include only what you _____, even if YOU know more than gets included
 - you have an _____ to reveal your story world one
necessary detail at a time
- Be _____
 - All stories have _____, don't break your own _____