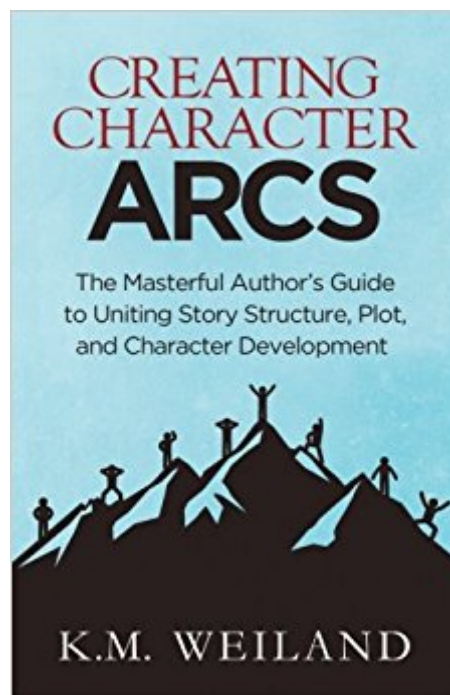




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# Creating Character Arcs: The Masterful Author's Guide To Uniting Story Structure (Helping Writers Become Authors) (Volume 7)



## Synopsis

Powerful Character Arcs Create Powerful Stories Have you written a story with an exciting concept and interesting characters—but it just isn't grabbing the attention of readers or agents? It's time to look deeper into the story beats that create realistic and compelling character arcs. Internationally published, award-winning novelist K.M. Weiland shares her acclaimed method for achieving memorable and moving character arcs in every book you write. By applying the foundation of the Three-Act Story Structure and then delving even deeper into the psychology of realistic and dynamic human change, Weiland offers a beat-by-beat checklist of character arc guidelines that flexes to fit any type of story. This comprehensive book will teach you: How to determine which arc—positive, negative, or flat—is right for your character. Why you should NEVER pit plot against character. Instead, learn how to blend story structure and character development. How to recognize and avoid the worst pitfalls of writing novels without character arcs. How to hack the secret to using overarching character arcs to create amazing trilogies and series. And much more! Gaining an understanding of how to write character arcs is a game-changing moment in any author's pursuit of the craft. Bring your characters to unforgettable and realistic life—and take your stories from good to great!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

K.M. Weiland lives in make-believe worlds, talks to imaginary friends, and survives primarily on chocolate truffles and espresso. She is the IPPY, NIEA, and Lyra Award-winning and internationally published author of *Outlining Your Novel* and *Structuring Your Novel*, as well as *Jane Eyre: The*

Writer—she's Digest Annotated Classic, the western *A Man Called Outlaw*, the medieval epic *Behold the Dawn*, the portal fantasy *Dreamlander*, and the historical/dieselpunk adventure *Storming*. When she's not making things up, she's busy mentoring other authors on her award-winning blog. She makes her home in western Nebraska.

Concise, organized, and empowering--*Creating Character Arcs* gives you the tools you need to not only create compelling characters, but to create compelling character-driven plots. I started calling this book "The Missing Link" about the time I reached the half-way mark. It's that "ah-hah" book that ties together all the pieces of writing advice I've received over the years and offers guiding principles for getting a book written. The questions at the end of the chapters are invaluable. A book that I started writing years ago, but set aside because I didn't have the skills to finish it is NOW finally taking shape with the help of this guide. Reading the chapters and then working through the questions has produced an outline that is keeping me on track as I write each scene. Experiencing my main character's character arc step by step is an amazing experience and this book is responsible for it. Like I said, it's "The Missing Link." All writers should have this book in their library to pull out each time they begin a new story. And if you use this book in conjunction with Weiland's other craft books, *Woswer*, you have a complete writing program that gets you from beginner to writer in no time.

*Creating Character Arcs: The Masterful Author's Guide to Uniting Story Structure, Plot, and Character Development* is the fifth of K. M. Weiland's writing guides that I've read. This book's discussion on how to develop a character arc takes the reader (and the character) step-by-step through the entire structure of the story, from the first plot point to the story's conclusion. She discusses character arcs for three viewpoints: when the protagonist grows to accept truth, when the protagonist rejects truth and descends into defeat, and when he will neither grow nor begin a negative descent. As with all of K. M. Weiland's writing guides, you won't get the full benefit unless you engage with the book by answering each question in full. I started reading and working through this book when I was well into my own story. As I worked through the chapters and answered the questions one-by-one, I found affirmation that I was doing some things right. Working through each chapter's questions prompts revelatory, "a-ha" moments, causing me to feel inspired. I am seeing the holes

in my story as well, and am working to overcome them. I firmly recommend this book to writers who are looking for help along the way to developing their own story's character arcs.

My favorite part of writing is creating a character profile and building the character arc. I'm already a long-time fan and supporter of K. M. Weiland's work, nonfiction, and fiction. I think this may be my favorite yet of her nonfiction books. I learned new tricks and connections I had not thought about or given a lot of thought. Asking "the right question" is so much more important than just asking questions about the story and character. Asking is a way to begin, but "the right question" will carry you through to the end. K. M. shows you that. I love the way she defined the character arc. I definitely recommend this one for any writer's library and resource.

Weiland's great genius as a writing teacher is her ability to translate theory into practical advice. This book is no exception. *Creating Character Arcs* is her best yet, layering real wisdom on top of the insights from *Structuring Your Novel*. In her latest, Weiland shows how character development -- far from being in competition with plot -- fits within a novel's structure. Indeed, character development IS a novel's structure. As with all of Weiland's wonderful writing books, *Creating Character Arcs* is written in clear, accessible language, is thorough in its treatment, has well-chosen examples, and bridges the gap between art and technique. But this one not only maintains Weiland's standards -- it takes the advice to another level. I'm very confident my ongoing projects will be richer and stronger for having read this book. Disclosure: I received a free copy in exchange for my honest review. I also purchased it, because I liked it so much, and because I wanted to have it available in the Kindle cloud on all my devices.

I've been trying to write a novel-length story worth publishing for some time now. With Ms. Weiland's help, I believe I've reached that point, and hope to prove that with my own book someday soon. I've read books, articles, and blog posts on the craft of writing for years. The big turning point in my evolution as a writer came with my reading of this book. Couple this book with Ms. Weiland's *5 Secrets of Story Structure: How to Write a Novel That Stands Out (Helping Writers Become Authors Book 6)*, and you will have a good grasp of how to structure a story that will captivate readers. No, those two books alone won't be sufficient to teach you all you need to know to write a publishable novel, and they won't take the place of actual writing experience. There are no magic books that will teach you how to write best-sellers, so don't expect these books to do that. But if you have been trying to write novel-length stories and feel you're missing something, these books might fill in some

of the gaps in your knowledge, like they did for me. Yes, I still have more to learn, but I suspect the need to learn will never go away. Ms. Weiland writes with clarity, and has years of experience to draw on. She regularly posts helpful info on her blog, which I also recommend to aspiring writers.

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