

WRITER'S TOOLBOX

Every good writer needs a toolbox. You can put together your own using a notebook with dividers or a multi-subject spiral notebook. You can even use recipe cards and a box to put them in. Get started with these ideas.

Journal book with pen / pencil or Laptop: For the days when you are hanging out with your friends and they do something quirky that sparks an idea for your next masterpiece.

Camera: Can't draw or remember details well? No problem. A camera can help you capture scenery and moments for recollection later; digitals and phone camera's work great for this.

Cheat-Sheets: Download & print as many as you like:

Character Profile, Scene Outline, Novel Outline / Summary, Chapter Outline.

Thesaurus / Writers Dictionary of Terms: Don't overwork the thesaurus. Stay natural because some fancy words won't work as well depending on setting, characters, plot, etc. You will need to develop a feel for which words will work the best for your story or novel.

Grammar: You need a handy book that explains parts of speech and other cool things like modifiers- adjectives & adverbs, metaphors, simile's, analogies, allusions, personification, symbolism, onomatopoeia cadence, flashback, back-story, foreshadowing.

Books to read: I often said I did not want to read other's works because I did not want to use / abuse their efforts (you know, steal their techniques). But this is a huge mistake and misunderstanding. If you are conscious enough to not steal then you have nothing to worry about. Besides their work can be a great source of inspiration for you. READ!

Writing Coach: they can often provide you with some writing techniques and writing prompts for those days when you get stuck. Attend a writing retreat at least once a year when you can.

Website Resources: Fill your bookshelf but at some point you will want some web references. Find some writing websites that you like that offers things you are interested in.

Don't stop there. Study ideas from other authors and continually build and revise your tool box to keep it fresh. This will help you keep fresh eyes and ears for your writing projects.

And there you have it, your very own writer's toolbox.

Happy Writing / Alexia Stevens

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