

Hello fellow writer,

I pray you will find this resource helpful in crafting a fight scene that grabs readers by the collars and won't let go. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at crystal@crystalcaudill.com. I just wanted to take a moment to encourage you before you dive in.

Writing is hard—physically, emotionally, and even spiritually. You are not alone. There is a whole cloud of witnesses running alongside you and ready to help you along. I particularly prayed for you before you ever attended this class. You can do this, but don't do it on your own. Reach out to other authors, but more importantly, reach out to the Original Author.

Our God is a God of story, all the way from the beginning when He used words to bring the world and life into creation to the end in Revelations, where imagery fills the pages. He has chosen you to partake in story writing as a means of reaching others. Like I've heard so often, "if God calls you to it, He equips you for it." Keep learning. Keep networking. Keep praying and seeking our Lord. Don't stop persevering.

May your writing journey be one that not only brings you closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and one that touches the hearts and lives of readers. If there is any way I can pray for you, just let me know.

Happy writing!

Crystal Caudill

P.S. Don't forget to visit www.crystalcaudill.com/kcwc2020 for bonus documents and a chance to enter the drawing for Carla Hoch's book, *Fight Write*.

Use each section below to help plan, evaluate, and refine your fight scene. Answer the questions from both the protagonist and antagonist perspectives.

Planning the Scene

PLOT MOVEMENT

- 1) How will this scene move your protagonist/antagonist closer or farther from their story goal?
- 2) What obstacles will this fight create or solve?
- 3) Why are they fighting *this* fight at *this* moment?
- 4) What are the stakes? (What will they lose if they fail?)
- 5) What do they hope to gain?
- 6) What do they actually gain?

CHARACTER REVELATION

- 7) What will you reveal about your character in this fight?
 - A. Are they honorable or a trickster? Merciful? Merciless?
 - B. How can you reveal these characteristics within the context of the fight?
- 8) What type of fighter are they?
 - A. Intellectual or physical?
 - B. Skilled or amateur?
 - C. Are they resourceful?
- 9) What strengths or flaws are revealed?
- 10) What does it reveal about what is truly important to them?
- 11) Does your character learn anything about themselves through the fight? What is it? How will it affect the plot moving forward?
- 12) What does it reveal about the observers of the fight?

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- A. Are they cowards?
- B. Do they step in to help?
- C. Do they hold back for the sake of the hero's honor?
- D. Do they run for help?
- E. Do they encourage the fight?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 13) What is the tone of the fight? How does that affect how they fight?
- 14) What are the most crucial details to notice?
- 15) How can you fulfill the promises of the genre in this fight?
- 16) How can you make this fight unique from all others?
- 17) How can they use resources in interesting ways?

Evaluating Your Scene Checklist

THE FOUNDATION

- Does your fight scene move your plot forward?
- Does your fight scene reveal the character of the:
 - protagonist?
 - antagonist?
 - observers?

THE DETAILS

- Did you stick to ONE POV?
- Are there any extra details your POV character should NOT have noticed?
- Did your characters have emotional and physical reactions?
- Are there any parts that become a blow by blow telling or description?

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- Did you cut any unnecessary details?
- Did you keep the action in real-time?
- Did you use the five senses in real and engaging ways?
- Did you stay true to the fighting style?
- Did you use fighting style jargon only when necessary and in a way easily understood?
- Were the reactions, consequences, and recovery realistic?
- Did you use instinct over intellect?
- Did you use dialogue to reveal character and/or new information?
- Did you fulfill the promises of the genre?
- Was the fight scene as long as it needed to be and no longer?

TECHNICAL WRITING CRAFT

- Did you use short sentences when appropriate to add tension?
- Did you mix in some longer passages in between the short sentences?
- Did you mix the action with dialogue?
- Did you use precise and punchy verbs?
- Did you remove adverbs and adjectives unless necessary?
- Did you remove all passive voice?
- Is there adequate white space?
- Did you start a new character's action on another line?
- Are there places on the page that are just huge chunks of text?
- Do you need to remove any flowery language?