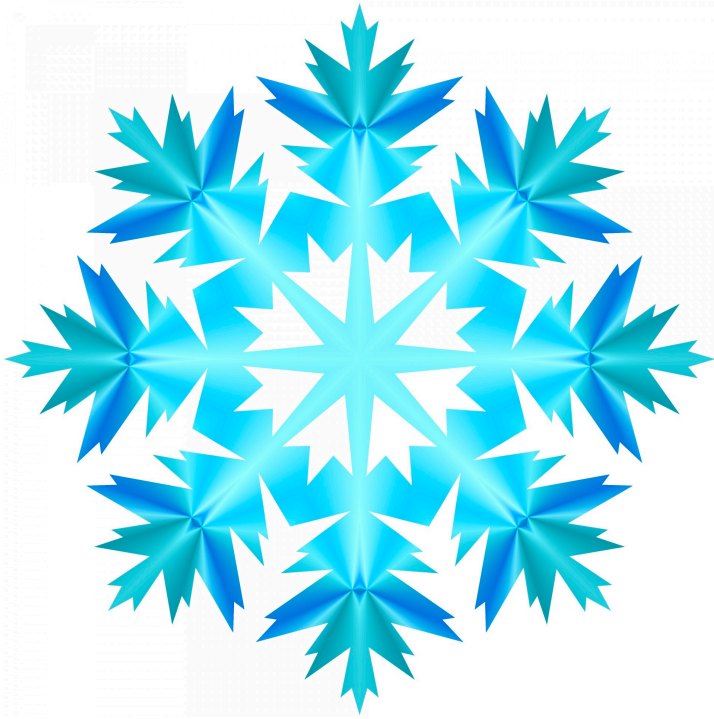


The Snowflake Method to Planning and Plotting



The Snowflake Method of planning and plotting a novel was developed by [Randy Ingermanson](#), and American author and software architect who used his science background to guide in the design process of a novel. It is a form of outlining.

The core idea behind the

Snowflake method for planning a novel is starting with a simple idea, or premise.

Next, like the designs of a snowflake, you add character and plot information.

Ingermanson's method centers around the mathematical principle of a fractal. In essence, the snowflake expands as you, the story architect, plans.

The method is broken down into ten segments, which I've summarized here (very briefly). See his website for more details and information on the Snowflake

Method: <https://www.advancedfictionwriting.com/articles/snowflake-method/>

1. Spend an hour crafting a one-sentence summary of your story.
2. Expand that sentence into a paragraph, which includes the key story elements: exposition, obstacles in the rising action, and the denouement. He calls it “three disasters plus an ending”.
3. Like me, Ingermanson believes that characters are at the center of every story. Step 3 is spending time creating one-page summaries on each of them.
4. Now, take a few hours to expand your summary, sentence by sentence. Each sentence becomes its own paragraph.
- 5. Back to characters. Write one-page descriptions of each main character, and half page descriptions of supporting characters.**
- 6. Next, expand your one-page synopsis into four pages.**
- 7. Take your characters and get to know them from the inside out by creating character charts.**
- 8. From your four-page synopsis, create a list of scenes for your novel.**
Ingermanson recommends using a spreadsheet for this!

9. Now begin writing a narrative description of your story.

10. Finally, write your novel!