

PICTURE BOOK BLUEPRINT WEBINAR

Obstacle Matrix

Unit 2 > Step 4

BEFORE THE WEBINAR: Print out this worksheet, but don't fill it out. We will be completing this worksheet during the webinar

Let's find the best obstacle to put into your protagonist's path toward getting what he/she wants.

On the next page, use the Obstacle Matrix to brainstorm some obstacles based on three scenarios, and select the one that most excites you.

The scenarios:

- ❶ Your protagonist against others – a character or characters are standing in your protagonist's way.
- ❷ Your protagonist against circumstance – things beyond your protagonist's control (nature, weather, luck, timing, etc.)
- ❸ Your protagonist against him/herself – your protagonist is his/her own worst enemy.

What if another character (or characters) is standing in your protagonist's way? Who is it? How are they foiling your character?

What if circumstances (nature, weather, animals, bad luck, bad timing, things out of your protagonist's control) are standing in his/her way?

What if your protagonist's own behavior/flaws/habits/fears/thinking is standing in his/her own way?

Which of these three potential obstacles excites you the most?

Obstacle Matrix, page 3

If the obstacle is coming from within your protagonist (his/her thoughts, fears, behavior), will you be able to convey it through his or her actions? In other words, what will your character *do* to *show* this internal obstacle in a way that the illustrator can draw? List several possibilities.