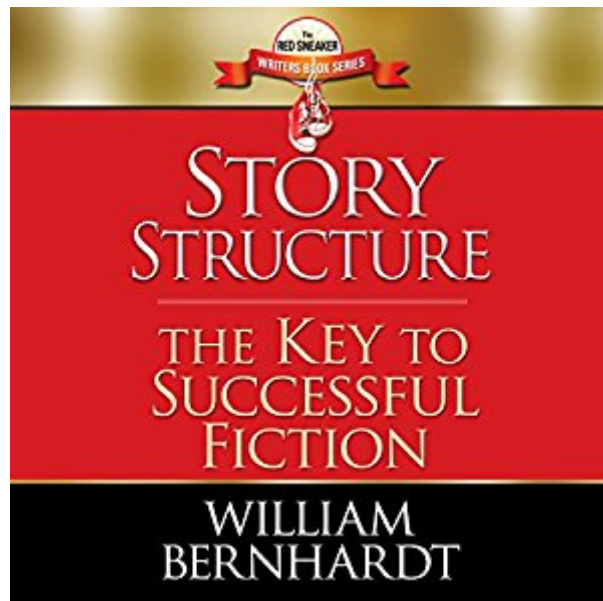


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# Story Structure: The Key To Successful Fiction: The Red Sneaker Writers Book Series, Volume 1



## Synopsis

"Writing is structure," William Goldman said, but too often aspiring writers plunge into their work without grasping this fundamental principle. Story structure is one of the most important concepts for a writer to understand - and ironically, one of the least frequently taught. In this book, New York Times best-selling author William Bernhardt explains the elements that make stories work, using examples spanning from Gilgamesh to The Hunger Games. In each chapter, he introduces essential concepts in a direct and easily comprehended manner. Most importantly, Bernhardt demonstrates how you can apply these ideas to improve your own writing. William Bernhardt is the author of more than 30 books, including the blockbuster Ben Kincaid series of legal thrillers. Bernhardt is also one of the most sought-after writing instructors in the nation. His programs have educated many authors now published by major houses. He is the only person to have received the Southern Writers Gold Medal Award, the Royden B. Davis Distinguished Author Award (U Penn), and the H. Louise Cobb Distinguished Author Award (OSU), which is given "in recognition of an outstanding body of work that has profoundly influenced the way in which we understand ourselves and American society at large." The Red Sneaker Writing Center is dedicated to helping writers achieve their literary goals. What is a red sneaker writer? A committed writer seeking useful instruction and guidance rather than obfuscation and attitude. Red sneakers get the job done, and so do red sneaker writers, by paying close attention to their art and craft, committing to hard work, and never quitting. Are you a red sneaker writer? If so, this book is for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is the bee's knees, and I went and bought "perfecting plot" as soon as I'd finished reading it. Of course, a good writer should get started with his writing once he's done reading this book, but I'm a procrastinator, and I'd like to improve both my plot and my structure before getting (re-)started on my current ms.

First, the good:- The book is affordable, as are the other ones in this series.- The book is short, which means you can read it in half a day, do the exercises and then get to work. However, short does not mean "lacking information" it means "to the point". I've read too many short-ish books which felt incomplete, and this isn't one of them. I would definitely recommend it over the other 500pg tomes I've wasted my time on.

Next, the excellent:- This book has made story structure quite clear in my mind. I think my books will greatly improve in the future thanks to this book. That's really the one thing that matters, and I don't agree with other reviewers who say the information provided is basic. I'd recommend this book to a beginning writer (duh) but also to someone more intermediate who has trouble with middles, or story smoothness and other things like that.

Now, the bad:- Different people get different mileage out of different things. So I can't guarantee that this book is the one that'll set that light bulb off in your head.- I'm waiting for the next book to come out. Something on pacing, maybe? Something specifically about mysteries, and structure as it applies to whodunnits? I thought about not writing this review, because I'm a selfish person and don't like announcing when I've found something good. However, I'd like to tell the writer to write another book in this series, hence this review.

I'm currently working with a writing book called "Story Structure: The Key to Successful Fiction " by William Bernhardt. Bernhardt is the prolific and successful author of the Ben Kincaid series and over a dozen other books, including five on novel writing. He is precise, literate and highly insightful. What interests me most about Bernhardt, however, is this - he understands how to communicate what he knows about writing. Bernhardt's books and workshops teach the students and readers he calls the Red Sneaker Writers how to plot, outline, create conflict, maintain suspense, and develop motivated and memorable characters. Based on my experience so far, his methods are both illuminating and practical. "Story Structure" is the first book in Bernhardt's concise but highly focused five volume writing series and the only one I have read so far (though I do have the next two - in audio and ebook - stored on my computer and phone). In the intro to "Story Structure" he says: "Here in the Red Sneaker universe, we strip away the pretense and abstractions that do more to complicate writing than to illuminate it. In the Red Sneaker School, we provide down-to-earth advice designed to improve the quality of your work." This could not be more accurate! Leaving out the

lengthy cut and paste quotations employed in most writing books, "Story and Structure" clearly explains the elements of fiction in terms of structure, act, scene, inciting incident, and classical storytelling. When examples are needed, Bernhardt references his own and other works without reproducing them. This means that the examples provided are helpful without being tedious - or largely unnecessary.

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