

Book Pattern template

Use the following questions to help you create a book pattern for your swatch draft, summarizing each chapter and scene. This book pattern is similar to an instructional pattern for crochet and other fiber arts projects. Although I've included questions to help you break your book down by chapter and scene, you can add questions, or rewrite the ones I've provided to work with your genre and story.

Chapter number.

Chapter title (if applicable).

Scene number (if applicable).

1. Where are we? Briefly describe your setting. Does the setting ground your reader, or do you need to add elements to eliminate confusion and put your reader in the scene alongside your characters?
2. When are we? You can be as specific as you need to be, if your genre requires specific dates, such as historical fiction, be sure to list the year your story takes place as part of your timeline. If your story is set in a contemporary world, you can give a day of the week within a specific time of year (e.g., Saturday before Labor Day at noon). Be sure to keep your timeline consistent to prevent confusing the reader (e.g., If the story takes place throughout a specific day, you don't have to mention the time, except in dialogue in your manuscript, but you do want to note this in your book pattern. Be sure to alert the reader when your story shifts from one day to the next).
3. Who are we with? What character's point of view is this scene written in, and who are the supporting characters?
4. What does each character want at the beginning of this chapter/scene?
5. What conflict does the protagonist or point of view character face in this chapter/scene? Is the conflict internal or external?
6. What is the action in this chapter/scene? I suggest writing a short summary, then describe the action in greater detail in a longer paragraph. You can add more details to your first sentence in the same paragraph or move the longer summary to a separate paragraph.
7. What do you learn about the plot and the characters as the chapter/scene progresses? Do your characters grow and change as the story develops, or is there a setback at the end of the scene that keeps your character from moving forward or makes him/her doubt himself/herself?
8. Do the Characters get what they want?
9. How does your POV character react to the conflict and action in this chapter/scene? What is the character's motivation for moving forward to resolve the conflict? If this chapter or scene has no conflict, what is the pivotal moment that moves the story forward? Does your protagonist face a dilemma? What decision does your character make at the end of the chapter/scene and how will it affect the rest of the story?
10. Reflect on what you liked about the chapter/scene, and write down any elements that you'd like to rework during the revision process. Why didn't the element(s) work and what changes would you like to make for them to work with your story arc?

Keep in mind, some of these questions may not fit the current chapter or scene you're revising. If this is the case, feel free to carry the extra questions over to the next chapter or scene. Use this

template as a model for creating your own book pattern, adding, deleting and cutting out unnecessary fluff from questions as needed. If you're editing or critiquing someone else's work, feel free to add space for editorial notes in your book pattern. This will help you write a revision or critique letter that you can send to your author friend or publisher requesting a critique or developmental edit.

If you'd like to see a sample book pattern, check out the book map information found in *The Magic Words* by Cheryl Klein.