

World Building 101

Whatever genre you're writing in, effectively establishing your setting is a powerful way to ensure your reader feels immersed in the story. That said, certain genres require a lot of heavy lifting to make sure that's the case. For example, a fantasy story that takes place in an unknown world is going to require more in-depth thought than a Teen Fic that takes place at a high school.

Why? **We're all familiar with high school.** Yes, you need to set up the specifics of this high school you're writing about, but your readers will have a pre-established, general sense of what the space will look like.

This likely won't be the case for your fantasy story, where you're asking your readers to expand their imaginations and lose themselves in a world they have no previous exposure to. You need to help them understand where they are, and how this new place works.

When you're creating your own world, YOU need to fully understand it and believe in it before you can expect anyone else to.

Here are 3 quick tips on how to make your world-building process manageable and effective:

Give your world a backstory

[Here's a template](#) you can access while you're creating your story. Regardless of whether all these details come into play, having these questions answered can be helpful in ensuring you've introduced a fully developed world. If you want your world to feel believable, it shouldn't feel like it suddenly and conveniently just came to be. And hey, you never know when there might be an opportunity to leak in some additional details (even if they're tiny!), so doing the legwork up front to help you fully understand your setting will help ensure the reader does too.

Keep it simple

The reader wants to lose themselves in your story and understand the world you've created for them, and it shouldn't be a struggle for them to do that. If you have details that require pages of explanation, odds are you'll lose the reader along the way. Making a world fantastical and unique doesn't mean it has to be insanely complex. Keep it clear - your readers will appreciate it!

Let your characters bring your world to life

It's easy to get caught up in thinking you need to introduce every aspect of your world right off the bat, and it's equally easy to get so caught up in describing the setting that the pacing slows and gets overly bogged down with detail. Utilize your characters and let them discover your



world on behalf of your reader. What do they see? Smell? Hear?
What are they experiencing that allows details to get naturally
leaked out to the reader? This will help keep your story flowing without losing any crucial
details along the way.