



Novel Chapter Planning Template

Chapter Information

Chapter Number: ____

Chapter Title: _____

Word Count Goal: ____ words

Estimated Pages: ____ pages

Chapter Purpose & Function

Primary Purpose: (What is this chapter meant to accomplish in the overall story?)

Story Function: (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Advance main plot
- ☐ Develop character relationships
- ☐ Reveal backstory/exposition
- ☐ Build world/setting
- ☐ Create tension/conflict
- ☐ Provide resolution
- ☐ Transition between story beats
- ☐ Other: _____

Point of View

POV Character: _____

POV Type:

- ☐ First Person
- ☐ Third Person Limited
- ☐ Third Person Omniscient
- ☐ Other: _____

Character's Emotional State (Beginning): _____

Character's Emotional State (End): _____

Plot & Structure

Opening Scene

Hook/Opening Line Ideas:

Setting: _____

Time: _____

Key Plot Points

1. Inciting Incident/Opening Conflict:

2. Rising Action/Complications:

3. Climax/Turning Point:

4. Resolution/Consequences:

Cliffhanger/Transition to Next Chapter:

Setting Details

Primary Location(s): _____

Time Period/Season: _____

Atmosphere/Mood: _____

Sensory Details to Include:

- **Visual:**
 - **Auditory:**
 - **Tactile:**
 - **Olfactory:**
 - **Taste:**
-

Character Development

Main Characters in Chapter

Character 1: _____

- **Role in chapter:**
- **Goals:**
- **Obstacles:**
- **Character arc moment:**

Character 2: _____

- **Role in chapter:**
- **Goals:**

- **Obstacles:**
- **Character arc moment:**

Character 3: _____

- **Role in chapter:**
 - **Goals:**
 - **Obstacles:**
 - **Character arc moment:**
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Dialogue & Voice

Key Conversations:

Subtext/Underlying Tensions:

Character Voice Notes:

Themes & Symbolism

Thematic Elements to Weave In:

Symbolic Objects/Images:

Motifs to Continue/Introduce:

Connections to Overall Story

Callbacks to Previous Chapters:

Foreshadowing for Future Chapters:

Subplot Advancement:

Emotional Arc

Opening Emotion/Tone: _____

Emotional Journey: 1. 2. 3. 4.

Closing Emotion/Tone: _____

Emotional Impact Goal: (What should the reader feel by chapter's end?)

Technical Notes

Pacing

Intended Pace:

- ☐ Fast-paced/Action
- ☐ Moderate/Balanced
- ☐ Slow/Contemplative
- ☐ Variable

Pacing Techniques to Use:

Writing Challenges/Concerns:

Research Needed:

Scene Breakdown

(For longer chapters, break into individual scenes)

Scene 1:

- Purpose:
- Characters:
- Setting:
- Conflict:
- Outcome:

Scene 2:

- Purpose:
- Characters:
- Setting:
- Conflict:
- Outcome:

Scene 3:

- Purpose:
 - Characters:
 - Setting:
 - Conflict:
 - Outcome:
-

Revision Notes

First Draft Completion Date: // ____

Areas for Improvement:

Beta Reader Feedback:

Final Revision Notes:

Quick Reference

Previous Chapter Summary:

Next Chapter Preview:

Overall Story Progress: ____% complete