

Genealogical Crime Mystery



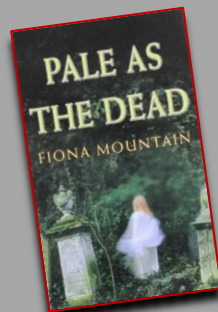
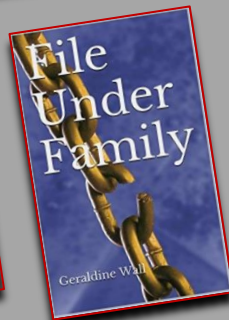
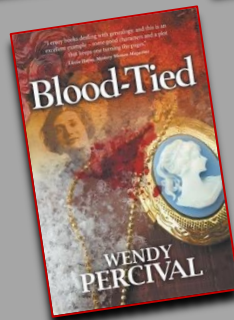
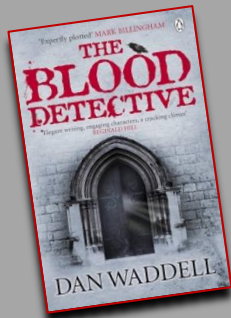
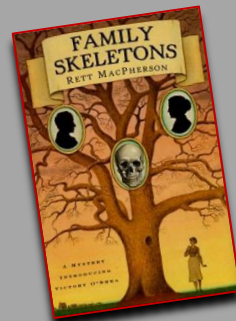
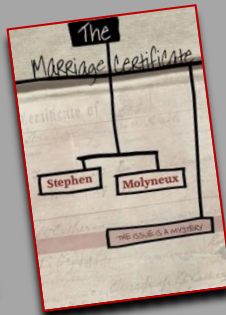
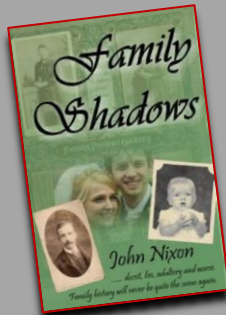
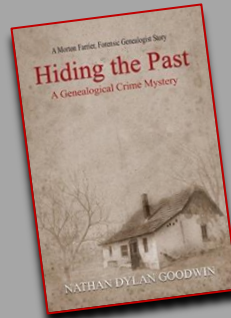
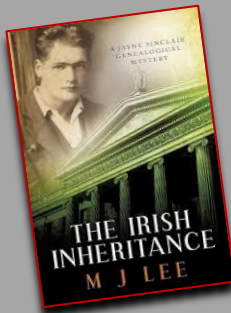
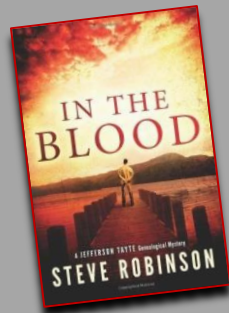
Creative Writing Course

Session overview

Week 7 – Writing, Editing & Publishing your story

- **Reminder of previous weeks' learning**
- **Formatting & editing**
- **Publishing**
- **Information on final submission**

Your final manuscript...



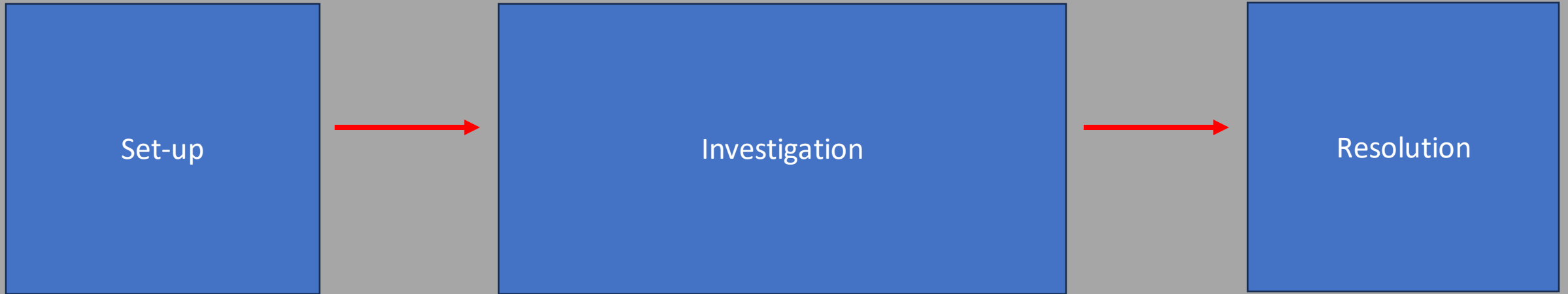
- Adoption
- Illegitimate children
- Fake identity
- Missing person / artifact / treasure
- Concealed criminal activity – often murder

Most genealogical crime mysteries boil down to this central theme:

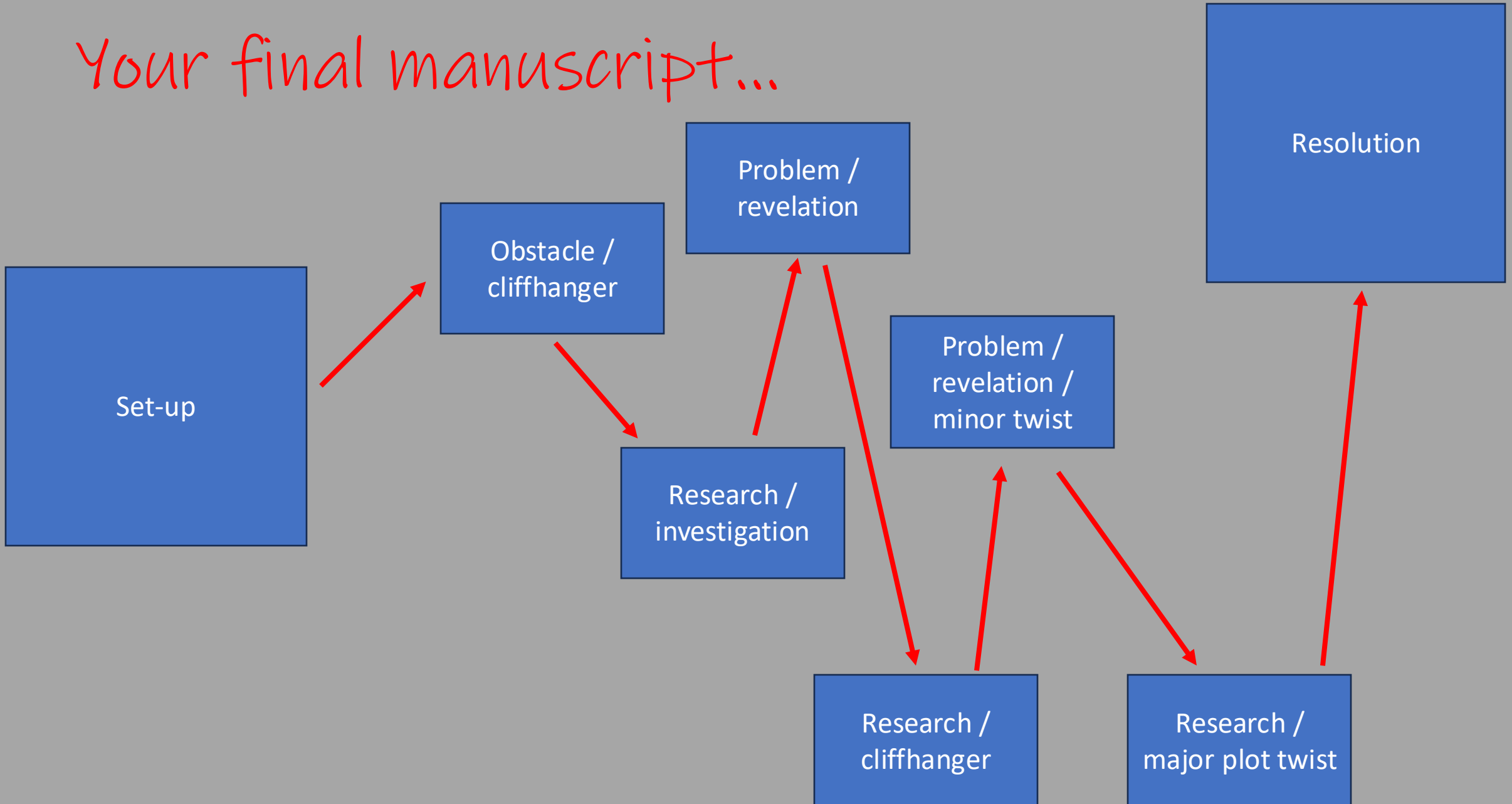
Family secrets & hidden pasts



Your final manuscript...



Your final manuscript...



Your final manuscript...

Serial	Age	Sex	Color	Religion	Profession	Marital Status	Place of Birth	When Born
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MARRIAGE LICENSE
NO. 10572
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

George Philip Strom
AGED 35 YEARS, RESIDING AT Los Angeles, NATIVE OF Mich. COLOR AND RACE WHITE

Louise Bullington
AGED 32 YEARS, RESIDING AT Los Angeles, NATIVE OF Germany. COLOR AND RACE CALIFORNIA, AND WHITE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, ON THIS 21st DAY OF Sept., 1906.

L. E. LAMPTON, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE (ORIGINAL)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THE 21st DAY OF Sept., 1906, UNDER AUTHORITY OF A LICENSE ISSUED BY L. E. LAMPTON, COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN THE PRESENCE OF John Gordon and James Bullington, CALIFORNIA, WHO WITNESSED THE CEREMONY.

Great news!
Your AncestryDNA™ results are in.

The moment you've been waiting for is here. The AncestryDNA results are ready for:

[See my results](#)



HEART TOUCHED.
People of the Country Offer Aid to Sufferers.
Standard Oil Places \$10,000 at the Governor's Service.

10,000 NEEDED.
Adj Gen Scoury Reports to Gov Sayers.
Says Estimate of 1000 Dead in the City is Too Conservative.

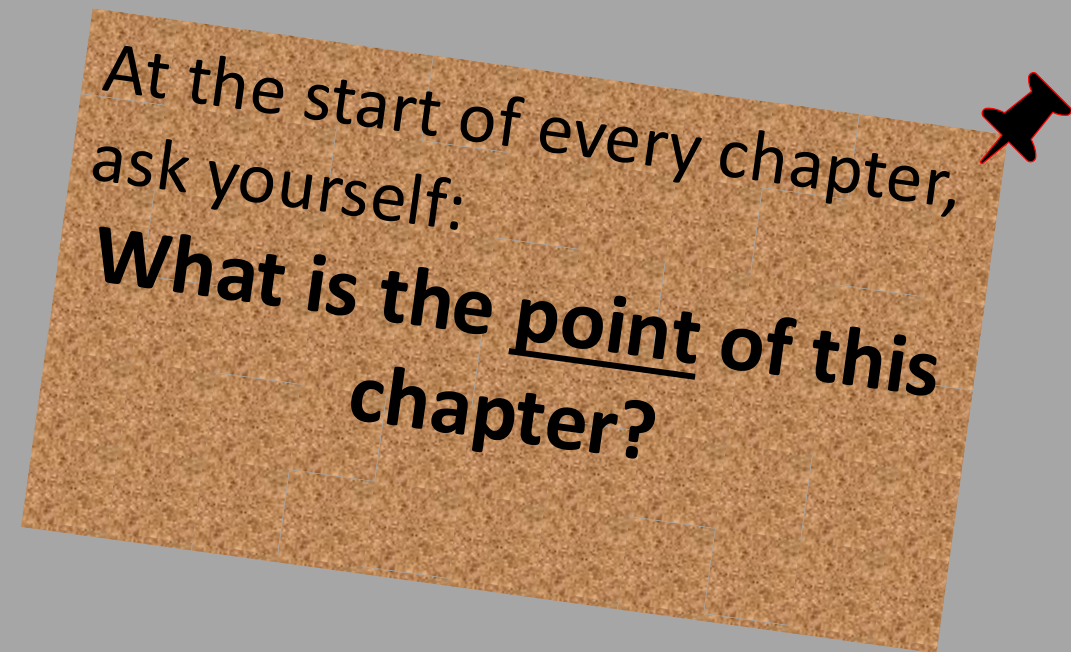
No.	Where and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
83		Elizabeth	fel	Charles Godwin	Elizabeth Godwin		James Godwin, 1339 Brixton Hill			Richard Godwin

WALL PAPERS
LITTON & COX

Your final manuscript...

- You're going to achieve this by (usually) switching between two timelines.
- Past / present or past past / present present or in a way which works for you
- Modern narrative is usually driven forwards by the main genealogist character conducting genealogical research
- Past narrative is usually driven forwards by the characters and their story (tied around the central themes)

At the start of every chapter, ask yourself:
What is the point of this chapter?



Your final manuscript...



Your final manuscript...



Your final manuscript... Show don't tell!



Chapter lengths...

The screenshot shows a writing application window with a sidebar on the left and a main text area on the right. The sidebar contains a 'Novel Format' menu with a 'Chapter' sub-menu. Under 'Chapter', there is a list of 27 chapters, each with a colored dot and a small document icon. The 'Prologue' is highlighted in purple. Below the chapter list are sections for 'Characters', 'Places', 'Front Matter', 'Notes', 'Research', 'Sample Output', 'Template Sheets', and 'Trash'. The main text area shows the 'Prologue' chapter selected. At the top of the main area, it says 'Prologue - 412 words'. Below this, there is a list of chapter lengths: Ch.1 - 4,475, Ch.2 - 4,971, Ch.3 - 1,920, Ch.4 - 3,213, Ch.5 - 2,385, Ch.6 - 3,028, Ch.7 - 4,459, Ch.8 - 1,551, Ch.9 - 2,820, Ch.10 - 2,850, Ch.11 - 2,294, Ch.12 - 3,254, Ch.13 - 1,806, Ch.14 - 4,219, and Ch.15 - 2,969. The main text area also displays the title 'Prologue' and the date '23rd September 1973, Haywards Heath, West Sussex'. The text of the prologue is visible, starting with 'She was the only person to alight at Haywards Heath railway station; the few other passengers that had occupied the train carriage with her were likely taking advantage of the hot September Sunday to escape the capital for a day out beside the sea in Brighton. She took a brief glance around her, then carefully placed the red and white chequered bag that she had been clutching in her hand down onto the platform. She pulled a crumpled packet of Embassy cigarettes from her handbag as she watched the train crawl out of the station, continuing its journey south towards the coast. Lighting a cigarette, she stood for a moment in the silence left by the departing train, then she picked up the bag and walked out onto the main road. She ambled along The Broadway, taking casual interest in the window displays of the small shops that she passed. Being a Sunday, this main thoroughfare running through the town was deserted; the shop interiors were dark, their awnings retracted and the parking spaces in front of them all but empty. Just the way that she wanted it. She stopped outside of Jo's Boutique, admiring a fancy new barmink coat in the window. Much nicer than the grubby black leather jacket that she was now wearing. "Twenty-five quid? Is that a joke?" she scoffed, drawing on the cigarette and continuing up the hill towards the town centre. A young couple, arm in arm were walking towards her. She looked down at the pavement as they passed, not wanting to make eye contact. She quickened her step until she reached a row of three shops. She stopped, glanced up briefly to the first floor and then tossed the cigarette butt into the road. Looking around her and finding the street to be deserted, she crossed over, heading for the bright red telephone box outside of the Seeboard showroom opposite. She hastened towards it, pulling open the door and smelling the familiar musty, metallic odour common to every telephone box that she'd ever stepped inside. Placing the red and white bag down on the floor, the woman turned to leave, heading back towards the train station. Behind her, the heavy door closed with a bang. Seconds later, from inside the bag the baby began to cry, the sound amplified by the acoustics of the telephone box. She continued walking, without so much as a glance back.

Book lengths...

Hiding the Past: 84,000

The Lost Ancestor: 100,000

The Orange Lilies (novella): 39,000

The America Ground: 95,000

The Spyglass File: 106,000

The Missing Man (novella): 49,000

The Suffragette's Secret (short): 35,000

The Wicked Trade: 110,000

The Sterling Affair: 140,000

The Foundlings: 87,000

The Deserter's Tale (novella): 40,000

Your final manuscript...

Chapter One

25th February 2023, Rye, East Sussex

Morton Farrier was flustered. He was sitting at the kitchen table of his beloved fifteenth-century home, The House with Two Front Doors on Rye's historic Mermaid Street, trying—and generally failing—to finish a PowerPoint presentation. From the next room, his son, Isaac, was smashing the merry hell out of a drum kit, which Morton's mother-in-law had thoughtfully bought for his third birthday last week. Despite Morton and his wife, Juliette, showering Isaac with a variety of gifts, his outright favourite present of all had been the wretched, deafening drum kit.

'Isaac!' Morton shouted into the lounge.
Isaac paused mid-thrashing. 'Yes, Daddy?'
'Do you think you could play with something else, now? Daddy's getting a headache.'

'One more song,' Isaac replied, resuming his drumming.
'If only it *was* a song,' Morton muttered, standing up and walking across the hallway to the lounge. He saw his almost-six-year-old daughter, Grace, somehow managing to read a book on the sofa behind the monstrous drum kit that now dominated the family living room. 'How on earth are you able to concentrate on reading?' he asked her.

Grace glanced up at him as if he were the greater distraction, shrugged and carried on with her book.

Morton winced as Isaac launched into a frenzied phase of the drumming session, which instantly put him in mind of Animal from *The Muppet Show*. Not for the first time, he watched on, contemplating with slight astonishment that he had spawned such a creature as this. He hurried from the room, headed up to his study on the top floor of the house and put

Resources

Zoom link for all live sessions

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us03zoom.us/j/30942946502?pwd=dkRlbnl0aU9kdjR0dUo0cU90bWZkdz09>
Meeting ID: 811 808 714
Passcode: 76942

Scrivener

- Scrivener - Basic Tour
- Scrivener - Getting Started
- Scrivener - Project Targets

Word

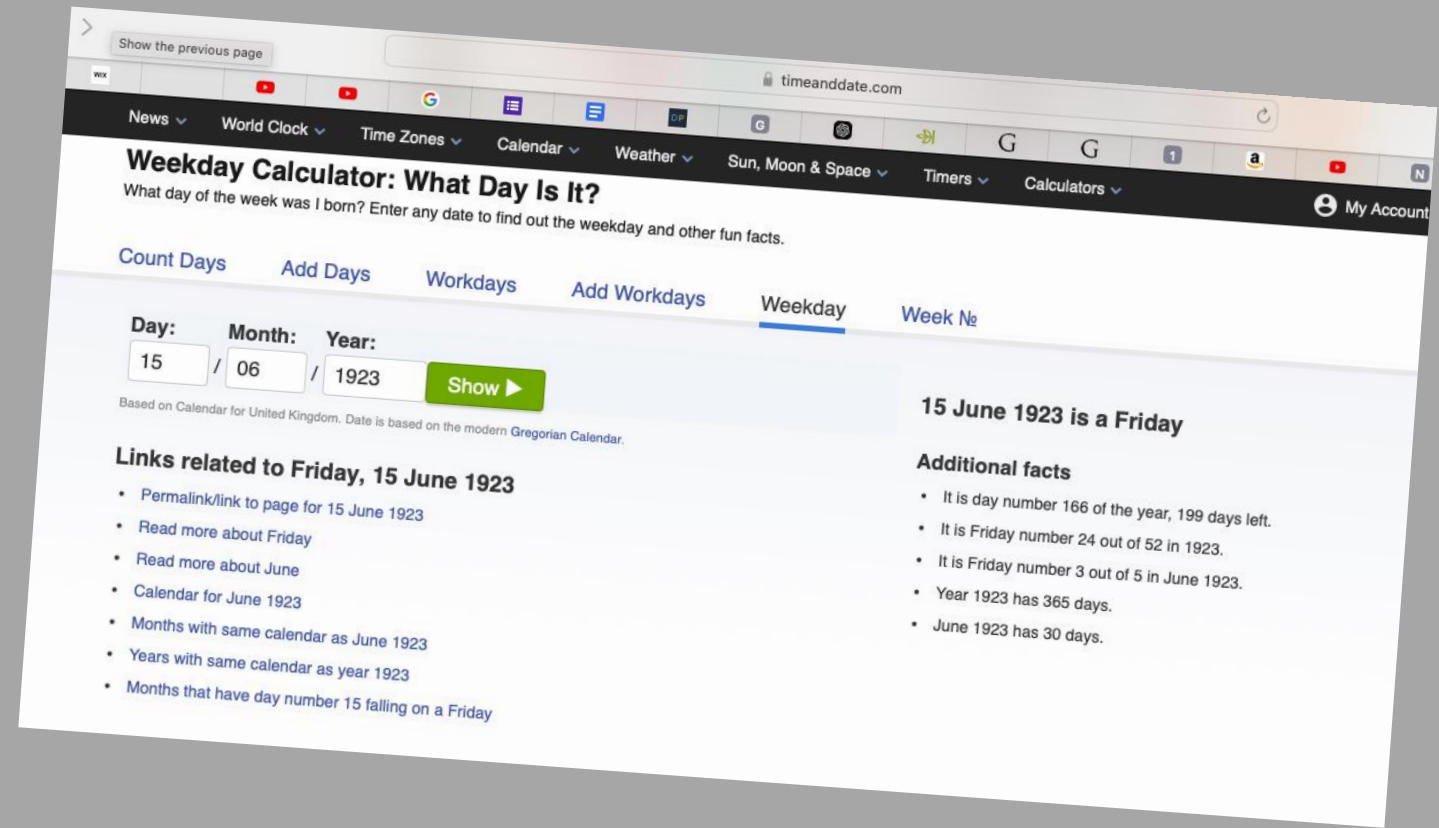
- Word - Formatting

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Your final manuscript...

Ancestry
FamilySearch
MyHeritage
Findmypast
TheGenealogist



timeanddate.com

News World Clock Time Zones Calendar Weather Sun, Moon & Space Timers Calculators My Account

Weekday Calculator: What Day Is It?

What day of the week was I born? Enter any date to find out the weekday and other fun facts.

Count Days Add Days Workdays Add Workdays **Weekday** Week No

Day: 15 / Month: 06 / Year: 1923 [Show ▶](#)

Based on Calendar for United Kingdom. Date is based on the modern Gregorian Calendar.

15 June 1923 is a Friday

Links related to Friday, 15 June 1923

- [Permalink/link to page for 15 June 1923](#)
- [Read more about Friday](#)
- [Read more about June](#)
- [Calendar for June 1923](#)
- [Months with same calendar as June 1923](#)
- [Years with same calendar as year 1923](#)
- [Months that have day number 15 falling on a Friday](#)

Additional facts

- It is day number 166 of the year, 199 days left.
- It is Friday number 24 out of 52 in 1923.
- It is Friday number 3 out of 5 in June 1923.
- Year 1923 has 365 days.
- June 1923 has 30 days.

The Future!



Book title...

- Don't fret about it yet!
- Try and think of several ideas
- Ask other people's opinions
- Use AI to help

Give me a list of five potential book titles which would fit with the genealogical crime mystery genre for my story set across two timelines. One is during the Great Galveston Storm of 1900 and the other in 2024. In the 1900 narrative, a young orphan survives the storm shortly after having a valuable family heirloom stolen by a man with bad intentions. This man knows about the orphan's backstory and would like to kill him. The modern narrative is led by an expert genealogist who tries to solve the crime in the past narrative using genealogical records and DNA. The title needs to fit this genre.



Memory updated

Here are five potential book titles that fit your genealogical crime mystery genre:

1. "Storm Heir: A Legacy Uncovered"
2. "The Lost Lineage"
3. "Threads of the Tempest"
4. "Echoes of the Storm"
5. "Buried in the Waves"

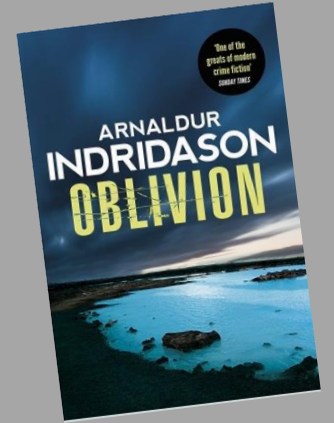
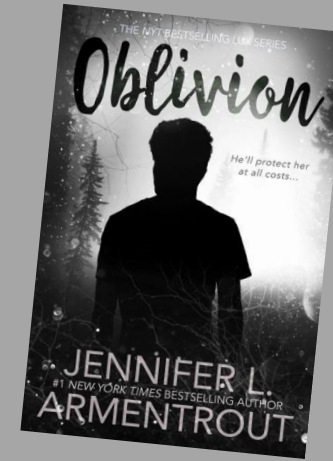
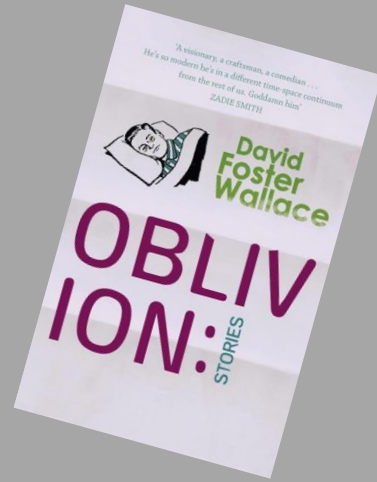
These titles incorporate themes of inheritance, the storm, and the genealogical investigation that connects both timelines.



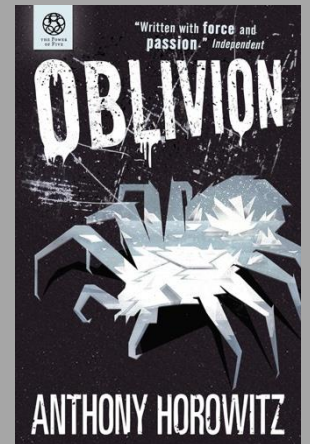
Book title...

Legalities...

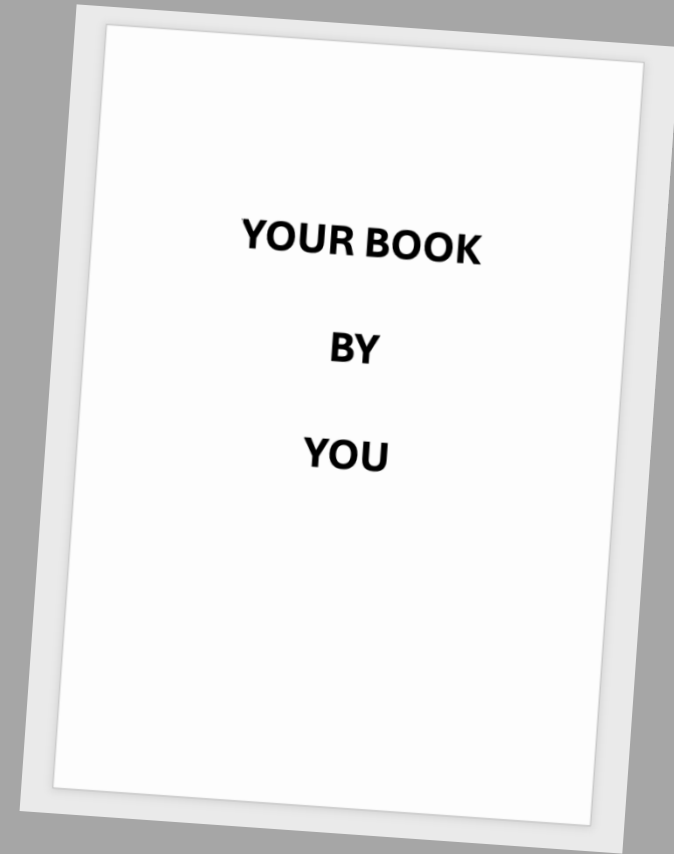
- General rule is that titles cannot be copyrighted, especially with common words / phrases
- Trademarks are a BIG no!



1. Harry Potter (series) – J.K. Rowling
2. The Hunger Games (series) – Suzanne Collins
3. Twilight (series) – Stephenie Meyer
4. The Lord of the Rings (series) – J.R.R. Tolkien
5. Percy Jackson (series) – Rick Riordan
6. Goosebumps (series) – R.L. Stine
7. The Chronicles of Narnia (series) – C.S. Lewis
8. A Song of Ice and Fire (series) – George R.R. Martin
9. Fifty Shades of Grey – E.L. James
10. Nancy Drew (series) – Edward Stratemeyer (Stratemeyer Syndicate)



Make time to write...



Traditional or Self-Publish route?

Pros of self-publishing for me:

- **Significantly higher royalties**
- **Complete creative freedom**
- Protect own brand
- Flexibility (deadlines / future projects, etc)

Cons of self-publishing for me:

- All marketing / publicity is down to me (& my team)
- Advertising is down to me (& my team)
- Every aspect of publication / book covers / proof readers / editors, etc is down to me
- All of the above costs money!
- Harder to get in regular book stores
- Easier to get any of the above wrong!

Pros of traditional publishing for me:

- All marketing / publicity is done in-house (if they do it!)
- Expert teams for cover design / proofing / editing (but they still get it wrong)
- They cover the costs of everything (prior to paying out royalties)
- Easier access to book stores

Cons of traditional publishing for me:

- **Significantly lower royalties**
- **They control your name and brand**
- Vague commitments in contracts with regard to marketing and publicity
- Usually tied to them for future books
- Spend 90% of their marketing budget on top 10% of authors

Target reader



Self-publishing process...

The screenshot shows the Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'kindle direct publishing' logo and links for 'Bookshelf', 'Reports', 'Community', and 'Marketing'. Below the navigation bar, a yellow warning box states: 'One or more of your books has quality items that need to be addressed. View Items'. The main heading is 'Create. Manage. Publish.' followed by the instruction: 'Publish a new title by clicking Create. Or manage your existing titles from your books below.' A yellow '+ Create' button is prominently displayed. Below this, there is a section for 'UPDATED Create a new title or series.' with a brief description and a link to 'New to KDP? Learn more about our resources to help you get started:'. The 'Booksshelf' section is active, showing a search bar and filters for 'View: Your titles', 'Sort by: Last Modified', and 'Filter by: All'. The book 'The Lost Ancestor' by Nathan Dylan Goodwin is listed. It is part of the 'Book in the forensic genealogist series'. The book is available in three formats: Kindle eBook (\$5.99 USD), Paperback (\$14.24 USD), and Hardcover (\$23.24 USD). Each format has a 'LIVE' status and a 'View on Amazon' link. The Kindle eBook has an ASIN of B00N7JCIEM, the Paperback has an ASIN of 1500883492, and the Hardcover has an ASIN of B0BN21JFY1. Action buttons for each format include 'Promote and Advertise' for the eBook, 'Order author copies' for the paperback, and 'Order author copies' for the hardcover. A 'Manage series' button is also present at the bottom of the list.

kindle direct publishing | Bookshelf | Reports | Community | Marketing

⚠ One or more of your books has quality items that need to be addressed. [View Items](#)

Create. Manage. Publish.

Publish a new title by clicking Create. Or manage your existing titles from your books below.


UPDATED Create a new title or series.

Reach readers in the format they want. You can now publish an eBook, paperback, or hardcover book. If publishing a series, you can create an Amazon series page and add your books.

New to KDP? Learn more about our resources to help you get started:

[Create a book](#) | [Book timelines](#) | [Free ISBNs](#) | [Tools and resources](#)

Booksshelf | View: | Sort by: | Filter by: |

 <p>Book in the forensic genealogist series The Lost Ancestor By Nathan Dylan Goodwin</p>	Kindle eBook LIVE ▼ Submitted on September 1, 2014	\$5.99 USD View on Amazon ▼ ASIN: B00N7JCIEM	KINDLE EBOOK ACTIONS <input type="button" value="Promote and Advertise"/> ...
	Paperback LIVE ▼ Submitted on February 3, 2018	\$14.24 USD View on Amazon ▼ ASIN: 1500883492	PAPERBACK ACTIONS <input type="button" value="Order author copies"/> ...
	Hardcover LIVE ▼ Submitted on November 24, 2022	\$23.24 USD View on Amazon ▼ ASIN: B0BN21JFY1	HARDCOVER ACTIONS <input type="button" value="Order author copies"/> ...
	Series LIVE ▼		<input type="button" value="Manage series"/>

Final submission!



Submit a piece of writing up to 5,000 words

- This can be whichever part of the story you like.
- If you want formatting suggestions, save document in Word format
- Try and read some fellow students work and offer constructive criticism
- Name your document ***your name final***
- Deadline: **Tuesday 26th November** (6 weeks)

Things to consider:

- Everything you've learnt!





Dashboard



MATERIALS

Access course materials, assignment details, PowerPoint slides and video playback for each session
(note: only available from the date of each live session)



FORUM

Interact with the writing group!



RESOURCES

Supporting materials for the course



ASSIGNMENTS

Share your work with the group. Comment on other people's work



Choose a folder & upload



Final submission! Upload your final submission!



Following



Draft of final submission Upload a draft of your final submission here



Following



Week 6 Assignments Upload your work.



Following



Week 5 Assignments Upload your work here



Following



Dashboard



MATERIALS

Access course materials, assignment details, PowerPoint slides and video playback for each session

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FORUM

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ASSIGNMENTS

Share your work with the group. Comment on other people's work

[Categories](#) [All Posts](#) [My Posts](#)

Search



Choose a folder & upload



Final submission! Upload your final submission!



Following



Draft of final submission Upload a draft of your final submission here



Following



Week 6 Assignments Upload your work.

318

15

Following



Week 5 Assignments Upload your work here

750

21

Following

Any questions?

