

HOW TO USE YOUR CHECKLIST

This checklist serves as a base for you to get a sense of the genre you would like to write.

There are 8 genre groups listed below, with 6 commonly identified tropes.

When we talk about tropes, we refer to themes, motifs, plot devices, plot points, and storylines that are familiar genre conventions.

This list will also give you an idea of which tropes might naturally overlap for your stories - such as a supernatural comedy, or a fantasy romance.

If you'd like to explore genres and sub-genres in more detail, just let me know with an email to contact@awriterslighthouse.com

Good luck!

Xeni x

A Writer's Lighthouse
#eyestothehorizon

Know Your Genre

TROPES CHECKLIST



Romance

- Love triangles
- Forbidden love
- Second chance at love
- Lovers meet unconventionally
- Convenient relationships
- Secret love - Royalty/Celebrity

Crime / Thriller

- A 'whodunit?'
- Detective & sidekick
- A red herring (false trail)
- Up against high stakes
- Plot twists
- Justice delivered

Mystery

- Unexplained events
- Haunted locations
- Unreliable narrator
- Clues hidden in plain site
- Nothing is at it seems
- The big reveal

Horror/ Ghost Story

- Isolated locations
- Conjuring evil spirits
- Blood / gore
- Characters split up / alone
- Darkness
- Monsters

Know Your Genre

TROPES CHECKLIST



Fantasy

- World building
- A quest
- Archetype characters
- Magical artifacts
- Imagined new species/creatures
- Battle of good vs. evil

Science Fiction

- Advanced technology
- Space/time travel
- Alien species, robots and AI,
- Parallel worlds
- Dystopian world
- Unknown/ deadly viruses

Magic Realism

- A realistic setting
- Surreal elements
- Fantastical elements are normal
- Improbable details
- Stories revealing a hidden meaning
- Magic expected, not explained

Action Adventure

- Far from home
- A chase/fight
- Fleeing from a threat
- Protecting from a threat
- Stories revealing a hidden meaning
- Hero/Heroes at work