

STORY IDEA SCORE SHEET

Score each question with a number between 1 and 10.

Potential

1. How marketable does the plot seem? Is it compelling? Is it something many will want to read, or only a few?
2. How likely is it that potential readers can grasp the story from reading the back cover copy? Many people make decisions on what book to read based on this short synopsis.
3. How dynamic/attractive is the lead character? Is it physical? Are they internally attractive because of the type of person they are?
4. How likely is it that you can deepen that attraction? What qualities can you give the lead to make them even more vibrant and memorable?
5. How high are the stakes for the main character? How will you raise the stakes from time to time to engage the character to begin a change?
6. How excited will you be to spend 6-12 months or longer on this project? You'll want to be enthusiastic to jump into the story.

Subtotal: _____

Passion

1. How passionate are you about the concept as it stands now? Would something you add make it better?
2. How interested are you in the main character(s)? Is it someone you'd really like? If not, how can you make them likeable?
3. Does the main character have the potential to deepen? What motives, characteristics and personality quirks can you add to the lead to make them irresistible?
4. How excited are you about the potential theme/meaning? Is it something that resonates with you?
5. How passionate are you about the setting? Why did you choose this particular setting?

6. How passionate are you about the plot? How is it unique and different?
7. How passionate do you predict you'll be about the plot as you write? Will your enthusiasm stay the course?

Subtotal: _____

Total: _____

Evaluation:

If your score is between 120 and 130, you're ready to write. If it's 100 to 119, you might want to consider going over your idea in some of the weaker areas to see if you can shore them up. For example, rethink the setting. Can you move the story to another location? Or can you think of ways to make the setting more vital?

If your score is under 100, this may not be the project for you. You may decide to try to strengthen all aspects of the idea, or look for another concept.

This is only a tool, but when you're ready to write, make the commitment and go for it. Be brutally honest with yourself and don't pad the numbers.