

THE WRITER COMMUNITY'S
INTRODUCTION TO

Writing Relationships



1

Family Relationships

Why is it Important?

- Family often plays a big role in the plot
 - As supporting/hindering the MC, avenging a death, looking for lost members.
 - Family history often creates the villain too
 - The lengths the MC might go to make them happy/proud
- Orphans is often a big trope in fantasy
 - What is it about an MC without a family that drives the plot forward? Trying to find out who they are? Discovering the truth about their past?

1

Family Relationships

- It is important to create complex relationships
 - Not just the endlessly devoted parent or completely evil parent - real life relationships are complicated
 - Give them history together (mentors, siblings etc.), being able to tell embarrassing stories
 - Explore the difficult relationships - mother/ daughter, father/ son and daughter/ mother in law
- Representation
 - Ensure your family units are also diverse: two dad/ two mum families or single parent families

1

Family Relationships

Parents

- Good Parents
 - Unconditional love
 - Support & guidance
 - Belief in character
 - Concern for character
 - Impact - strong moral compass, potentially naive
- Bad Parents
 - Forceful
 - Lacking empathy
 - Dismissal and neglectful of child
 - Directing path rather than gentle guidance
 - Impact - lack of faith in humanity, cold, reserved, broken, poor coping habits, maybe a twisted moral compass

1

Family Relationships

Parents

- No Parents
 - Independent
 - Strong willed
 - Fear of a lack of acceptance?
 - Impact -might be thinking about who left them behind often, whether intentionally or not

Mentors

- Often become parental figures
- Mentors can also be people characters look up to and are led astray by
- Mentors are generally chosen, so this person's opinion of the character who has chosen them as a mentor is going to have a huge, lasting impact on their own self view and decision making

1

Family Relationships

Siblings

- Worth noting that siblings can fit into every other type of relationship but romantic
- Close relationship
 - Supportive
 - Jovial
 - See through facades
 - Know each other really really well
 - Protective
 - Impact - opinions of sibling and advice matters greatly
- Normal Relationship
 - Annoyance & petty disagreements
 - Jealousy & competition
 - Generally Care & playful
 - Impact - opinions hold weight but are not deciding factors

1

Family Relationships

Siblings

- Enemies
 - Jealousy and sense of competition outweigh their love for one another
 - Bickering turns into carefully calculated attacks
 - Some resentment between them for some reason
 - Impact - will often make decisions simply for the pursuit of being in direct opposition with one another

2

Platonic Relationships

Why it is Important?

- It is so important that your MC has friends
 - It helps show who they are as a person, especially if the side character is a foil
 - They also help move the plot along
- Different types of friendships
 - Sibling-like - only more perfect and more forgiving
 - Opposites attract - the responsible and the irresponsible
 - How to write believable friendships
 - Give them well matched personalities and likes and dislikes
 - Give them history and/or shared experiences - why are they friends?

2

Platonic Relationships

- What makes them choose each other?
 - If they are a new friend, why do they need each other now
 - It has to be give and take, your MC cannot just take
 - Friendships should have ups and downs and fights
 - They should have fun, but also help each other grow
- The friend should have their own ARC
 - Make the friend a well rounded character with an outside life, don't make them 2D
- Will it develop? Friends to Lovers trope...

3

Romantic Relationships

How to Write Believable Romance

- Not every book has romance and it could just be a subplot - but when you do do it, it needs to feel believable
- Tropes
 - Enemies to Lovers
 - Friends to Lovers
 - Forbidden Love
 - Soul Mates
 - Second Chance Romance
 - Fake Relationship
 - Stuck Together (sometimes arranged marriage)
 - Secret Billionaire
 - Love Triangle

3

Romantic Relationships

- Slow burn romance seems to be favoured
- Build up the tension - make the characters work for it
- How to develop the romance in the story:
 - They meet, do sparks fly? Then you must introduce a situation for them to have to work together
 - Leave breadcrumbs out for the reader to follow as the relationship blossoms
- The love is more believable when:
 - It is based on shared experiences
 - They know the person well
 - built on mutual respect & trust
 - It develops naturally
 - They care for each other
 - They have differing opinions but also respect the other's POV

3

Romantic Relationships

- The love is more believable when:
 - Supportive of each other's goals
 - You show the ups and downs
 - You show them working problems out together
- Non verbal cues to show they are falling in love
 - blushing, butterflies in the stomach, lingering gazes, subtle smiles, breathless speech, brighten up when they're around each other, some jealousy or heartache.
- People tend to fall in love with
 - People who are opposite to themselves
 - People they admire
 - People with similar traits or are broken in the same way

4

Enemy Relationships

How to Write Believable Enemies

- They need to have a reason for the way they are
 - What is their history?
 - How did they become the way they are?
 - Why are they the enemy of the MC - shouldn't just have them hate each other for no reason
- Reader should identify with the enemy even if they don't like them
 - Antagonist as the mirror of the protagonist - both feel real, understand why they are who they are

4

Enemy Relationships

- Reader should identify with the enemy even if they don't like them
 - Antagonist is the person the protagonist would become if they went down a certain path - could have been best friends, but their differences just couldn't allow it
- Can your enemies change?
 - Enemies can often be based on misinformation? Can this change?
 - Can they become friends, switch sides? Someone who they thought was a friend is actually the enemy?
 - Enemies to lovers also comes into this

DID YOU FIND THIS USEFUL?

FOLLOW

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