

Bardsy's Publishability Index™

		A GOOD STORY HAS:	A GREAT STORY ALSO HAS:
CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION EXERCISES	☐ Identifiable and plausible actors, human or not	☐ Authentic characters who come to imagined life
	BACKSTORY EXERCISES	☐ Main characters with pasts that inform their identities	☐ Relevant histories that spur individual change and action
	AGENCY EXERCISES	☐ Characters who manifest through thoughts and choices	☐ Clear, cumulative character development
WORLD	PHYSICALITY EXERCISES	☐ Descriptive details that create a complete setting	☐ A world that readers can imagine being within
	CULTURE EXERCISES	☐ A defined society	☐ A social environment with key features fully realized
	CONTINUITY EXERCISES	☐ No unintended anomalies	☐ Intentional inconsistencies that enrich the setting
CONFLICT	GOAL-STAKE EXERCISES	☐ Discernible motivations for all actions	☐ Friction that steadily intensifies stakes
	OPPOSITION EXERCISES	☐ Obstacles that impede goals	☐ Situations that make discord inevitable
THEME	CLARITY EXERCISES	☐ Some recognizable message	☐ An organic, overarching message
	RELEVANCE EXERCISES	☐ A relatable message	☐ A profound impact
PLOT	INCITING EXERCISES	☐ A specific incident that tees up events	☐ An initial event that sets expectations and creates momentum
	RISING EXERCISES	☐ A logical sequence of events tied to an advancing narrative	☐ Compounding events that compel engagement
	CLIMAX EXERCISES	☐ An obvious emotional peak	☐ A culmination of tension realized in a defining moment
	FALLING EXERCISES	☐ No unintended loose ends	☐ A managed moment that allows readers to recover
	RESOLUTION EXERCISES	☐ A clear ending, whether open or closed	☐ A satisfying and impactful conclusion
LANGUAGE	EXPRESSION EXERCISES	☐ Apt word choice and syntax	☐ Stimulating vocabulary and phrasing
	VOICE EXERCISES	☐ A consistent style	☐ A distinctive, evocative style
	MECHANICS EXERCISES	☐ No mistakes in grammar, punctuation, etc.	☐ Purposeful and impactful construction throughout
COHESION	ENVIRONMENT EXERCISES	☐ Characters who fit world and vice versa	☐ A synergistic interaction between characters and world
	VERACITY EXERCISES	☐ A solid connection between conflict and theme	☐ Conflict and theme locked into a mutually reinforcing spiral
	INTEGRATION EXERCISES	☐ No incompatibility between elements	☐ A productive orchestration of all elements
	DYNAMICS EXERCISES	☐ No unintended discontinuities between events	☐ Unfolding events that exert a magnetic push or pull
	RESONANCE EXERCISES	☐ Events that correspond with conflict and theme	☐ Sufficient impetus from events to deliver a powerful message