### MICROPLOTING

Engaging Readers on Every Page



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## What is MICROPLOTTING?



Where is this going?

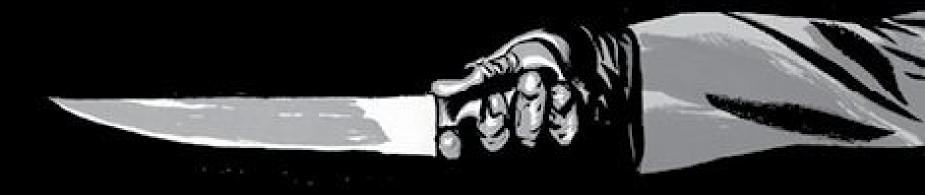


# Every scene should advance the plot or deepen the characters.

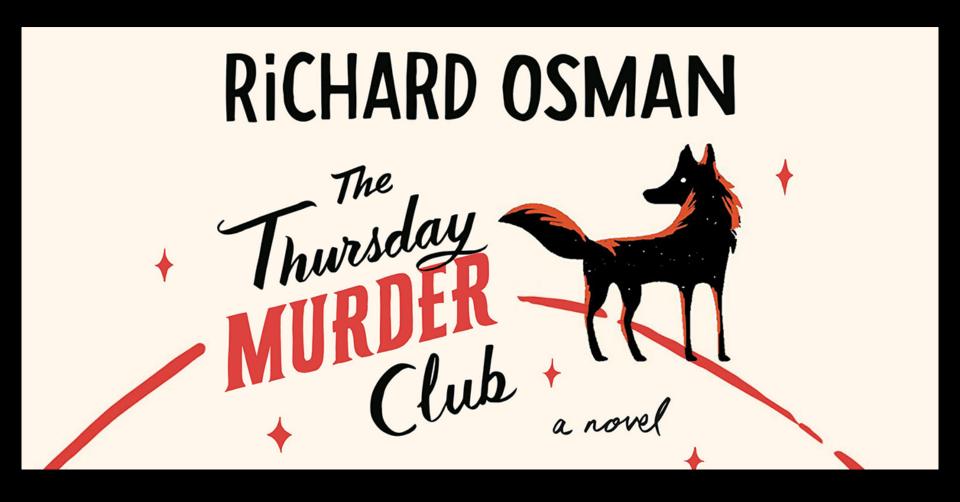
### Advancing the plot

HERE WAS A HAND IN the darkness,

and it held a knife.



### Deepening the characters



### When structuring a scene, ask the following:

- 1. What does my character want?
- 2. Why can't they get it?
- 3. What will they do about it?
- 4. Why doesn't it work?
- 5. How does it end?

### 1. What does my character want?

- Reach a location
- Get something
- Answer a question
- Persuade another character

### 2. Why can't they get it?

- Obstacles
- Interpersonal friction

### 3. What will they do about it?

Active characters earn advancement.

Passive characters rely on luck or coincidence.

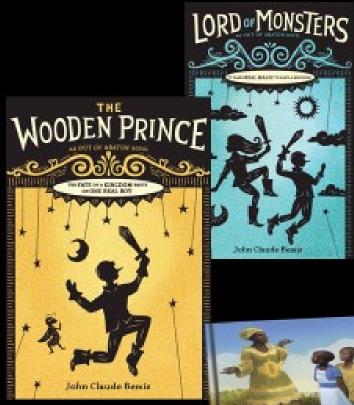
### 4. Why doesn't it work?

- Give twists and turns.
- No easy or obvious solutions.
- Challenge your characters!

#### 5. How does it end?

- Satisfaction = adhering to reader's expectations.
- **Surprise** = subverting reader's expectations.







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