

MICROPLOTTING

Engaging Readers on Every Page



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What is
MICROPLOTTING?



Where
is this
going?



Anticipation
is the key.



Every scene should
advance the plot
or
deepen the characters.

Advancing the plot

THERE WAS A HAND IN the darkness,
and it held a knife.



Deepening the characters

RICHARD OSMAN

The
Thursday
MURDER
Club



a novel

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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