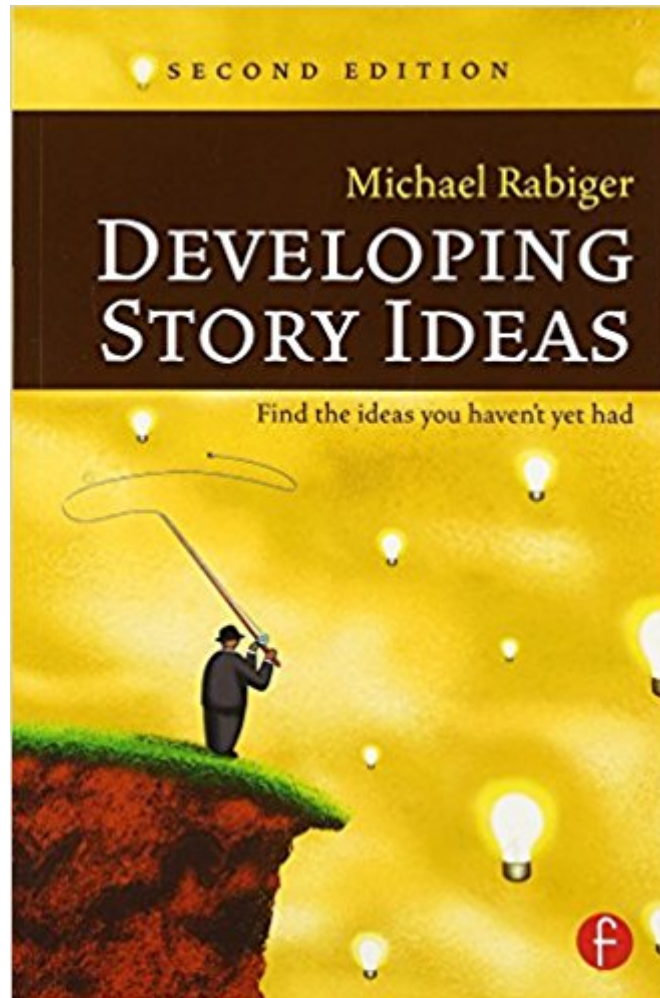




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Developing Story Ideas



Synopsis

The vast majority of screenplay and writing books focus on story development and have little to say about the initial concept that generated the piece. *Developing Story Ideas* offers writers a spectrum of resources and a structure of writing practice so that anyone can quickly and reliably generate a wide variety of stories in a broad range of forms. It first shows you how to observe situations, acts, and themes-and use these observations as the basis for storytelling. Exercises and projects help you draw an artistic self-profile to summarize what you most need to investigate in your creative work. Micahel Rabiger, a renowned teacher, author, educator, and mentor, proves we all have the inner resources and life experiences to be creative. He guides aspiring writers step by step to come up with quality story ideas in a broad range of forms: a screenplay, short story, documentary, or play.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Using the tools of the screenwriter's trade... Rabiger reveals how to chart a scene and represent its intensity as a dramatic arc, as well as exploring how to analyse stories for effectiveness, meaning and purpose, which is relevant to film and video creators at all levels." - What Digital Camcorder
"Rabiger does a nice job, guiding the reader through the writing process from selecting a genre to creating the plot to developing interesting characters. If you'd like to become a better scriptwriter, this one is well worth the money." - Videomaker Magazine
"His program-between-covers for developing ideas into proposals that will sell is more textbook than narrative...The value of Rabiger's book for an individual writer almost surely depends on how that writer's mind operates." -

Unique book on generating good ideas for stories and developing an artistic identity

If you are dedicated to be a writer, this book might give you a great support to create stories. I was expecting a more of a creative insight from this book instead of a list of techniques on writing. The first part of the book gives you great idea about how to free your creativeness and overcome a fear of writing the wrong stuff "All accomplished authors seem to agree there is one prerequisite for become a writer, and that is to keep writing no matter what" and this was the only usable part of this book for me.

You need to know what I'm going to tell you so that you have the right expectations when buying this book. The book is designed more to support a storytelling class. There are group exercises and specific drills to complete after each section. So if you are alone it feels rare to read about class exercises. So, you have to understand this book's main target are teachers and students in a class. The drills actually seem to be quite a promising activity. If I went to a fiction writing course I would like to be given this book. The author deals with the creative process, the artistic identity and how writers actually have to dig deep in their soul to find their stories and their subjects or themes. This part I liked. As for what the title promises "Developing story ideas". I'm not fully convinced with the material. In a certain way the basic theory is there (three act structure, scene cards, theme...) but you should be warned that there is much more that can be said about storytelling and how you actually create a great story. What does this mean? It means that if you want to write stories just to entertain yourself this is a good place to come. Now, if you want to become a professional writer the information in this book might be taken as the beginning of your education. Plenty of books await you. This book gives you the basics about how to develop story IDEAS. Once you have a story idea, then you have to develop the story itself. It wouldn't hurt if you consulted other books that have much more insight of how to build a story itself. As for me, why did I change my mind and come back and posted a better review? Well, to me one of the best ways to decide if a book is good or not is to see if you come back to it to remember some useful insight you know is between its covers. That happened to me. I'm deep in a story I'm writing and I remembered this book had something that would help me. I came back. Believe me if a book makes you come back it probably has something valuable and it might be considered a good book. There you go, now it's time for you to decide if it is right for you or not.

I have a shelf full of books on scriptwriting, directing, and other general movie making topics. However, the one thing that has held me back on my first short film was the lack of story. Rather - the lack of a GOOD story. I was very happy to stumble across this book. Finally someone has written not about putting your idea on paper, but GETTING the idea in the first place ("priming the pump", as the book says). You not only read the principles, but are encouraged to apply them with the many hands-on exercises presented throughout. I believe this book is definitely a worthwhile read for anyone experiencing writer's block.

This was a gift for my son. He just graduated from film school and it was on his list of 'books I must read'! He said it is great!

Rabiger is too complex to be a regular American artist. We Americans tend to be kind of two-dimensional and short-sighted. In his books he explains his "stranger-in-a-strange-land" perspective--as a result, his books are brilliant and speak to the craftsman and the searching artist. He's about a solid foundation in one's work regarding concept and execution. He's from another era and not about "what's gonna sell!" or "be a hitmaker!"---instead his approach is about integrity and longevity as an artist. Metaphorical short-hand: like a marriage based on good stuff instead of marrying arm candy.(scattered writing like this above is why I love/need his books)

This book was not at all helpful to me. It contained no new information or insights.

Rabiger offers outstanding insight into the director's process in his book "Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics." I hoped he would offer a similarly incisive perspective on the writer's process in this book. I was disappointed. "Developing Story Ideas" consists mainly of writing exercises, with long bulleted lists of to-dos for each assignment. As such, the book reads as a compendium of assignments for teachers to hand out to students in a writing class and it reminds me why I didn't study writing in college. The assignments were too rigid and programmed to engage my creativity. The book might work for others; it might work well in a classroom; it didn't do much to stimulate my own writing. I did appreciate Rabiger's sensitivity to the writer as artist, and the sections on discovering and developing one's unique artistic identity, or voice. The author is always encouraging and sincerely desires to help nurture the writer's growth. I wanted to love this book but the practical exercise format just didn't work for me.

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