Introduction to Outlining 101 Questions

**Part 1**

How can you introduce the hero in their current situation before the hook?

How will you establish the stakes for your hero?

To help establish the stakes you could consider the answers to these questions:

What does your hero stand to lose?

Their life? Freedom? Family? Business? War?

What do they stand to gain?

A better life? Their freedom? The war? A more fulfilling life?

At the 1% mark of your story what will hook your readers to continue reading?

What is the point of no return for your hero?

How can you make it clear to the reader your hero has made a decision or has been forced to make a decision based on the stakes and cannot turn back?

**Part 2**

How does the villain show it’s power or control in the first pinch point?

After the villain exhibits their power, how does the hero come to a better understanding about the situation?

What major event takes place at the midpoint of your story?

What is your hero’s new perception of the antagonistic forces?

What is your hero’s new perception of the conflict?

What is your hero’s new perception of themselves?

Based on everything that happened from the pinch point to the lead up and the eventual midpoint, how will your hero shift and become proactive? Try to foreshadow this in some way.

**Part 3**

How are you going to show the antagonistic forces showing control?

How has the central conflict changed?

How can you foreshadow the climax during the second pinch point?

What new information is revealed to the hero?

How can the second pinch point raise the stakes for the hero?

In your outline how can you create a second plot point lull?

What event seemingly cripples your hero’s victory?

How does your hero’s personal weakness contribute to the event?

How can you create your hero’s symbolic death?

How can you foreshadow the final confrontation?

**Part 4**

What is the setting for your final confrontation?

What is the final moment the readers have been waiting for since the beginning of the book?

Have you delivered the foreshadowed events?

Who comes out on top, the hero or the villain?

Does the closing setting contrast from your opening?

Have you offered a finale to your story?