

2008 - A New Year of Magic!

(New as of June, 2008 - We've added another DSM Master Class and Introducing DSM II - Turning Points)

To sign up and get more information just go to
www.writersonlineclasses.com or
www.discoveringstorymagic.com

We are excited to announce a new year of *Discovering Story Magic* online. And due to the overwhelming response last year, we are adding two new, special classes to the 2008 schedule!

When you are writing:

- Do your characters become three-dimensional and alive?
- Do conflicts escalate within a tight, interwoven plot?
- Do your subplots and secondary characters broaden the scope and deepen your story?
- Do you know the bedrock truth underlying your story?

Learn how to create this kind of MAGIC every time you sit down to write. This is your chance. **Laura Baker** and **Robin Perini** are offering **three classes** this year based on their acclaimed course, *Discovering Story Magic*:

INTRODUCTION TO DSM, March 15 through March 28, \$30.00

There are no pre-requisites for this class

Included in the class:

- The full 21-page handout
- Lessons that walk you through the complete process
- Individual brainstorming on **Your** story
- Learn as you observe Laura and Robin assisting others with their stories

ADVANCED DSM, September 1 through September 30, \$60.00

Class pre-requisite is attendance in some version of DSM (online, conference, or day-long)

Included in the class:

- Quick review of the process
- In-depth, month-long brainstorming on **Your** story
- Learn as you observe Laura and Robin assisting others with their stories

This class provides students who understand the structure and techniques of using DSM an opportunity to dive right into brainstorming their own stories. Advanced does NOT mean that you have to know the DSM process cold,

however, all the brainstorming in this class will be guided using the principles of DSM.

Both of the above classes offer individual, focused, guidance and brainstorming on your stories, and the option of simply watching others as the magic of creating a story unfolds real-time. These interactive, hands-on classes give you tools and skills to make your writing more powerful from the start. You will learn:

- How to build a firm foundation under your characters using the **Character Grid**
 - How to give your story a backbone by defining its **Turning Points**
 - How to use the **Storyboard** to organize scenes, control the pacing, and escalate the tension of your story.
 - And, most importantly, how to realize your **Vision** of the story you want and need to write.
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**Now for the exciting additions to the DSM online classes:
DSM MASTER CLASS and DSM II - Turning Points and Theme**

First, the DSM Master Class

What would you give for private one-on-one brainstorming sessions with Laura and Robin? As if you were off in a cabin with just the two of them, working exclusively on your story? Here is your chance.

After receiving many requests for personal brainstorming attention where no one else would be a part of the posts, Laura and Robin have developed a third DSM class. A private class, where your emails are read ONLY by Laura and Robin.

Master Class, June 7 through June 20 and October 25 - November 9, \$90.00
Class Pre-requisite is attendance in some version of DSM (online, conference, day-long presentation)

This class includes:

- Quick review of the process
 - Private, personal brainstorming of your story
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DSM II - Turning Points

Have you taken Discovering Story Magic and didn't quite get through Turning Points and the Story Board? Do you wonder how to use the steps of Discovering Story Magic to create compelling pitches and synopses? Here's your opportunity. Finally, a class that focuses on TURNING POINTS of plots and

subplots, placing scenes where they will be the most powerful, and more importantly— layering THEME into your story!

DISCOVERING STORY MAGIC II: Turning Points

When you are writing:

- Have you conquered sagging middles?
- Do conflicts escalate within a tightly interwoven plot?
- Do your subplots and secondary characters broaden the scope and deepen your story?
- Do all the elements of your story—plot, characters, conflict, and theme—express a dramatic purpose?
- Do you know the bedrock truth underlying your story and know how to wield this very powerful tool?
- Do you know how to use the elements of Discovering Story Magic to create a compelling pitch (and this is just in time for the conference season)?

Take another step in the MAGIC. This is a brand new opportunity. **Laura Baker** and **Robin Perini** are offering to take you past the beginning and into Discovering Story Magic II. Bring a completed character grid and you'll get a chance to build YOUR story from YOUR great characters. With a focus on turning points, subplots, secondary characters and theme, this is your chance to really apply the nuances of the Discovering Story Magic process to YOUR story.

Discovering Story Magic II - Turning Points, July 5 through July 20, \$30.00

You must have one completed character grid to take this class.

Included in the class:

- More information on Turning Points, Subplots, Secondary Characters and Theme
- Individual brainstorming on **YOUR** story
- Learn as you observe Laura and Robin assisting others with their stories

This class also offers individual, focused, guidance and brainstorming on your stories, and the option of simply watching others as the magic of creating a story unfolds real-time. These interactive, hands-on classes give you tools and skills to make your writing more powerful from the start. You will learn:

- Using the **Character Grid to create scenes**
- Creating **Turning Points that really work**
- Organizing scenes on the **Storyboard** to control the pacing, and escalate the tension of your story.
- Harnessing the **Dramatic Purpose** of your story through the use of **Premise – the “unity of opposites”**
- Between the grid, the turning points, and the theme, creating a convincing, dramatic **pitch** just in time for the conference season.

- And, most importantly, how to take advantage of your **Vision** of the story you want and need to write.

DSM works for all genres of popular fiction and for all levels of writers: multi-published, newbies, “plotters,” and “pantsters.” All have used DSM’s flexible tools to produce salable fiction by weaving together character, conflict, plot, realization, and turning points from the beginning of the writing process through revision and even the synopsis.

Endorsements of Story Magic

“I have no doubt that the story and character development techniques I learned through DISCOVERING STORY MAGIC took my writing from passable to publishable. For the first time, I was able to see a clear process of storytelling that gave me a path without forcing the direction of my story and provided a structure without putting me in a box. The day after I took the seminar, I used everything I’d learned to crystallize characters and map out a plot using a story premise that had previously been nothing but a cobweb of ideas. Within a few days, I was able to start writing and within a few months, I’d finished the book that became my first sale, to Pocket Books. One reviewer called that book “breathtaking...a novel from the soul.” No...it was a novel from DISCOVERING STORY MAGIC! Since then, I’ve sold 14 books to two publishers, within three subgenres under two slightly different names. I’ve completed ten manuscripts and every single one starts with Story Magic!”—Roxanne St. Claire, national bestselling author and 2005 RITA finalist

*“The techniques and grids of DISCOVERING STORY MAGIC are revolutionary. They can help every writer understand the arc and plot development of unforgettable characters. In fact, the format grid has become an important part of my pre-writing. Laura and Robin have tapped into ‘magic’ and created a concept that is a **must** in every writer’s tool kit.”—Cathy Maxwell, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author.*

“As a writer, I feel obligated to provide my readers with a minimum of two things: believable, interesting characters and a coherent plot. STORY MAGIC, used correctly, is a no-fail system for achieving that—and more. I recommend the system to any writer, new or established, attempting to make a sale in today’s highly competitive publishing environment.”—Jasmine Cresswell, USA Today bestselling author of more than sixty novels.

Accolades from previous online classes:

“I am so thrilled with your assessment. Your reasoning [about a character flaw] made so much sense that scenes started flashing in my mind. I couldn’t get to the computer fast enough. You and Robin blow me away. I humbly thank you

for helping me to sort out the grids so I can make [the story] powerful and meaningful.”

“I now know what’s been missing from this story. I finally “feel” the layers and the textures and the plot is no longer contrived. I’m so excited! I’m digging in, writing my little brain out.”

“Your comments—your time and effort into really thinking about our stories—Wow! From the pantster who sees the grid as more frightening than a blank page...I’ve learned a lot and am ready to move forward!”

“I have many [writing] books. I could never quite get my arms around all the concepts, and I have drawer warmers of (failed) copy to prove that statement. Laura and Robin—all of the hard work that you’ve put into this presentation is obvious in your dedication to responding to every stitch of messaging with such deliberation and attention to detail. My heartfelt thanks goes out to you for your mentoring people and furthering their dreams. I actually have an idea about what a successful (and success producing) process is all about. A million thanks.”

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