



## SUBSTANTIVE EDITING FOR FICTION 101

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### Course Outline

Good novels don't just happen – they endure several revisions before publishing, and the first round of edits is usually the substantive edit.

What is a substantive fiction edit? Sometimes called a macro edit, it's the 'big picture' edit—before the copy editor looks at each punctuation marks and notations, the substantive editor looks at the whole book: characters, pacing, plotlines, point-of-view, setting, etc., as well as keeping an eye on punctuation, grammar, and more.

In Substantive Fiction Editing 101, we'll look at the basics of a well-written novel and learn how to help our authors learn and incorporate those techniques. This class will define fiction, review industry standards, and look at the foundation for every novel—plots and characters.

#### Lesson #1

- CBA vs. ABA
- Book Lengths and Classifications
- Genres
- Sub-Genres

#### Lesson #2

- Editing Resources
- Point of View (POV)
- Industry Formatting Standards

#### Lesson #3

- 9 Basic Plots
  - Man vs. Self
  - Man vs. Man
  - Man vs. God
  - Man vs. Destiny
  - Man vs. Setting

- Man vs. Society
- Man vs. Machine
- Man vs. the Unknown
- Man vs. the Situation

#### **Lesson #4**

- Act I (Beginning)
- Act II (Middle)
- Act III (End)
- Subplots

#### **Lesson #5**

- The Inciting Incident
- Door #1
- Door #2

#### **Lesson #6**

- Consistency with Characters
- Goal-Motivation-Conflict (GMC)
- Strengthening Weak GMCs
- Authenticity
- Fictional Stereotypes
- Diversity
- Secondary Characters