



#NaNoWriMo Prep

- Whose story is this?
- What train is heading straight for that character?
- Why don't they just get out off the tracks?
- Who or what is driving that train?
- Where is this going, and what catastrophes will
happen before we get there?
- What's your point?
- What belief will go from your heart to the heart of
your story?

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Need more detail? And maybe a little more room?

On Episode 75 of the #AmWriting with Jess and KJ podcast, bestselling novelist Sarina Bowen said it all starts with character and conflict. The first five questions come from that conversation. Know your character's basic bio, she said, and know what they want, and what they fear. Good stories aren't about sensible people who jump out of the way of the oncoming train. They're about passionate fools who have what they think are excellent reasons for staying right there on the tracks, who or what is driving that conflict train, and what happens when it hits.

Whose story is this?

What train is heading straight for that character?



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As the very smart book coaches at Author Accelerator say, if you didn't have something you wanted to say with this story, you'd probably spend your days knitting or planting zucchini, not writing a book. What's your point? It may sound cliched, but that's ok. Love does conquer all, power corrupts, good triumphs. Next, take your point inside. You're opening up a path to your inner beliefs with your story. As Dan Blank writes in his book, *Be the Gateway*, you have an inner truth that you want readers to connect with. Know what it is, and write with that in mind.

What's your point?

What belief will go from your heart to the heart of your story?

Finally, as you write each scene, keep these questions in mind:

- What does your character want?
- What are they afraid will happen?
- What are they thinking and not saying?
- What will go wrong because of what they do here?



Good luck, and happy writing--

KJ