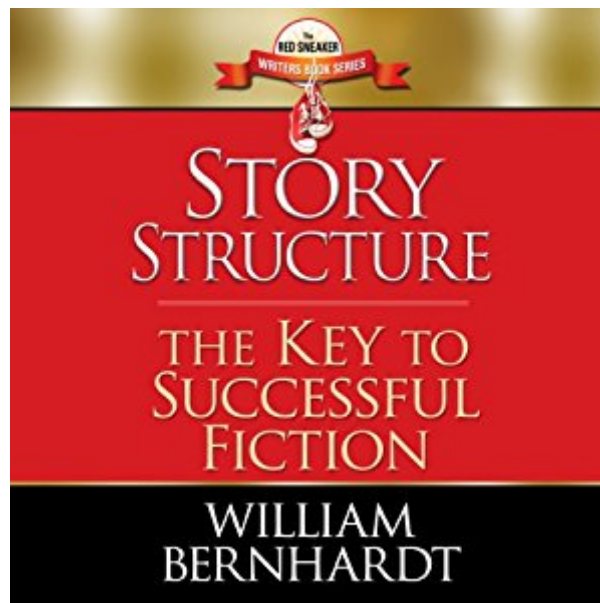




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# **Story Structure: The Key To Successful Fiction: The Red Sneaker Writers Book Series, Volume 1**



## Synopsis

"Writing is structure," William Goldman said, but too often aspiring writers plunge into their work without grasping this fundamental principle. Story structure is one of the most important concepts for a writer to understand - and ironically, one of the least frequently taught. In this book, New York Times best-selling author William Bernhardt explains the elements that make stories work, using examples spanning from Gilgamesh to The Hunger Games. In each chapter, he introduces essential concepts in a direct and easily comprehended manner. Most importantly, Bernhardt demonstrates how you can apply these ideas to improve your own writing. William Bernhardt is the author of more than 30 books, including the blockbuster Ben Kincaid series of legal thrillers. Bernhardt is also one of the most sought-after writing instructors in the nation. His programs have educated many authors now published by major houses. He is the only person to have received the Southern Writers Gold Medal Award, the Royden B. Davis Distinguished Author Award (U Penn), and the H. Louise Cobb Distinguished Author Award (OSU), which is given "in recognition of an outstanding body of work that has profoundly influenced the way in which we understand ourselves and American society at large." The Red Sneaker Writing Center is dedicated to helping writers achieve their literary goals. What is a red sneaker writer? A committed writer seeking useful instruction and guidance rather than obfuscation and attitude. Red sneakers get the job done, and so do red sneaker writers, by paying close attention to their art and craft, committing to hard work, and never quitting. Are you a red sneaker writer? If so, this book is for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is the bee's knees, and I went and bought "perfecting plot" as soon as I'd finished reading it. Of course, a good writer should get started with his writing once he's done reading this book, but I'm a procrastinator, and I'd like to improve both my plot and my structure before getting (re-)started on my current ms.

First, the good:- The book is affordable, as are the other ones in this series.- The book is short, which means you can read it in half a day, do the exercises and then get to work. However, short does not mean "lacking information" it means "to the point". I've read too many short-ish books which felt incomplete, and this isn't one of them. I would definitely recommend it over the other 500pg tomes I've wasted my time on.

Next, the excellent:- This book has made story structure quite clear in my mind. I think my books will greatly improve in the future thanks to this book. That's really the one thing that matters, and I don't agree with other reviewers who say the information provided is basic. I'd recommend this book to a beginning writer (duh) but also to someone more intermediate who has trouble with middles, or story smoothness and other things like that.

Now, the bad:- Different people get different mileage out of different things. So I can't guarantee that this book is the one that'll set that light bulb off in your head.- I'm waiting for the next book to come out. Something on pacing, maybe? Something specifically about mysteries, and structure as it applies to whodunnits? I thought about not writing this review, because I'm a selfish person and don't like announcing when I've found something good. However, I'd like to tell the writer to write another book in this series, hence this review.

If reading this review, my advice is: stop wasting your time and buy this book. It's a good one.

Edit to add: In the last few days I've gone ahead and read just about all the books on plot/structure that I could get my grubby little hands on. This one stands head and shoulders above the rest. At least for me. It contains advice that's easy for me to apply and actually get my book structured right. YMMV, but if you're only going to buy one book on plot/structure, this is the one I recommend. (Yes, it doesn't contain information about pinch plots, but you can google that if you want. I write whodunnits, so pinch points aren't that relevant for me, but this book is.)

I own several books on writing, any writer would. I stopped buying them for a while because every one of them said the same thing in different words. A friend of mine told me about a Short Course Seminar, and it was the second time I met Bill. The class is an intense week of work, with a lot of great info, but this book seems to have even a little more than what I learned there. I just finished reading it today so I could give an honest opinion, and it is simply this, buy this book. If you are a writer, serious about your craft, or know someone who is, you need this on your shelf, in your

e-reader, or on your computer. Where ever it is, keep it handy, work through the excersizes and let the book work for you. Outlines and structure really have helped me in my craft, and I wish this book would have been in my hands a couple years ago, when I decided that this writing thing is what I wanted to do. The information is all there in black and white, all you need to do is follow along, take notes and apply to your current work in progress. Bill tells it like it is, including a few of my favorite lines, "Writing is hard...." and "Set a schedule and write every day. Treat it like you would any other job you've worked at." I'm paraphrasing a bit, but it's true. I am waiting for the next book, and am glad to be a Red Sneaker Writer! Way to go, Bill! Thanks for this one.

I really enjoyed this book. Most books on structure cover the same material, but this guy makes it easy to understand. I brought another one of his books on premise, and I plan to read that next, although the last book I read on premise was really good. In my first four screenplays I didn't really have a premise for each project and it was a real pain to finish each one. I only got good coverage ratings from my first effort. I seemed to get worse instead of better with each attempt. That was frustrating. So frustrating I wrote a non-fiction about Disneyland that got published (no vanity publisher) and restored my confidence. In any event, my mind tends to wander, being a spacey senile surf freak and old hippie, but using this instruction should keep my attention focused on the "A" story and protagonist. This guy has trial blazed the right path for storytellers to follow. Anyone short of a three or four book veteran should stay on the trail. Enjoy the writing journey, ladies and gentlemen.

I enjoyed the book, something that doesn't often happen with non-fiction. I knew a lot of what was in the book which thus served to reinforce what I knew. We should periodically review what we know and believe in. I learned a few new things and took several pages of notes. Easy to read while delivering good material with some occasional humor. There were a few to several grammar errors and a typo or two. None of them interfered with the learning process. I suppose one can say an author should be studious about editing and proofreading or one can simply smile and say 'oh well' and appreciate the irony. I'm going in search of other books by this author....

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