

A HOW-TO GUIDE BY C. M. OKONKWO

LEARN TO WRITE A BOOK IN UNDER TWO WEEKS

USING A PROCESS THAT WORKS



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HI, I'M C. M. OKONKWO

I'm a French-Speaking Nigerian who grew up in Lagos and moved to France to study, where I obtained three fantastic degrees. I currently practice HR as a profession and specialise in developing and directing a strategic and operational HR plan that aligns with business goals and master the employee/employment life cycle using policies and processes to achieve the business goals. I also write as a passion, which is fuelled by my love for travel and tourism, where I pull experiences and merge them with my limitless imagination.

My best genres are action-packed mystery, thriller, detective, and suspense, but my writing goal being diversity, I've also written erotica, romance, literary fiction, horror, science fiction, fantasy, and non-fiction. I've published 26 books so far, a few of which have been shortlisted for awards and also won prizes, including the Africa Book Club Short Story Competition (winner), the 50 Best Indie Books (two-time finalist), Quramo Writers' Prize (two-time finalist), and Wattpad Short Story Contest (multiple-time winner).

I'm an active member of *International Thriller Writers* and *PEN Nigeria*, and the Secretary (2020 - 2022) of the *Association of Nigerian Authors* (Lagos Chapter). I'm the founder of *Laybels UCL*, a company that specialises in self-publishing literary works and birthed *Blue Heels Production* for short films and series, and *Literarily Yours Book Club*.

ABOUT MY GUIDE

Why Writing?

I am in a few writers' associations and communities, and many members often talk about how they want to write but lack the one important factor that affects creativity and productivity: TIME.

I have also met and read from aspiring writers, and even friends, who have endless ideas and stories in their heads, but do not know how to turn the ideas into a book.

Finally, I have met those who want to learn a new skill, in the art of writing, and need help finding a unique idea that they can turn into a book.

If you fall into any of the above categories, then this guide is guaranteed to provide the solution you need.

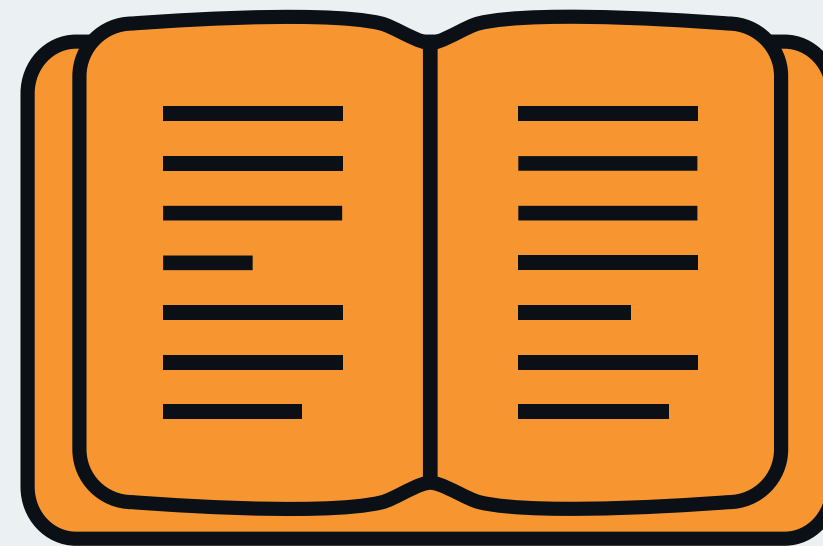


THIS GUIDE ANSWERS

two important questions



Where do story ideas come from and how can I develop them into a book?



How can I start and finish my book on time without compromising quality?

THE FIRST CAN BE ANSWERED BELOW.
GRAB YOUR PEN AND PAD, LET'S SEE HOW!

A QUICK WARM-UP EXERCISE



A) Memory test

In one word, write down the first thing you saw when you woke up this morning.



B) Fact test

Pick one colour from the cover page of this guide.



C) Imagination test

If you could teleport, where is the one place you would be right now?



D) Story test

Without changing your words or their form, use them to write a seven-word story.

HERE ARE MY ANSWERS: PHONE, BLUE, MIAMI.
NOW GIVE YOURSELF THREE MINUTES AND WRITE AS MANY STORIES AS YOU WANT.



How was the exercise?

YES. YOU CAN ACTUALLY WRITE A SEVEN-WORD STORY. EVEN THREE-WORD SLOGANS TELL A STORY.

MINE IS: LEVERAGED, JOE STEALS BLUE PHONE IN MIAMI.

IF YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANYTHING, GIVE IT ANOTHER GO.



REMEMBER THAT YOUR SEVEN WORDS SHOULD NOT CHANGE IN FORM AND SHOULD TELL A STORY

MINE (**LEVERAGED, JOE STEALS BLUE PHONE IN MIAMI**) TELLS THE STORY OF JOE, WHO IS FORCED TO COMMIT AN ACT BECAUSE HE HAS SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT TO LOSE OTHERWISE.

NOTICE THAT MY WORDS MAINTAIN THEIR ORIGINAL FORM WITHOUT CHANGING TO PLURAL, POSSESSIVE, OR COMPOUND WORDS.

NO MATTER HOW TEMPTED YOU ARE, DO NOT CHANGE YOUR WORDS. THE MORE CHALLENGING THEY ARE, THE MORE CREATIVE YOU WILL GET.

GIVE IT ONE MORE GO BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE NEXT PAGE.

HERE ARE OTHER STORIES I WROTE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES:

- IN MIAMI, WIRED BLUE PHONE ELIMINATES TARGET.
- KIDS PHONE BLUE MIAMI CLOWN AND DISAPPEAR.
- SUSPICIOUS BLUE PHONE EXPLODES AND DESTROYS MIAMI.
 - PHONE IN MIAMI BLUE SKY ENGULFS CITY.
- DISCOVERED BLUE PHONE SAVES HOSTAGE IN MIAMI.

YOU HAVE JUST FIGURED IT OUT!

Story ideas come from your memory, from fact, or from your imagination, which is unlimited if you dig deep.

You can get ideas from writing prompts or newspaper clippings and titles, which also count on your vivid and active imagination to be developed into a book.

You can also get ideas from things that are happening or have happened around you, places you have been to, and things you have heard.

But remember, you have the power to modify what you have seen, heard, or done in fiction writing. So change things to suit yourself and leave people surprised.

YOU ALREADY HAVE YOURSELF A STORY IDEA!

You can go a step further and develop your seven-word story into a nice book using the **PCSPCF** formula. It is an acronym that I came up with for the basic elements of writing and would be explained in detail in the guide.

ARE YOU READY?

CONGRATS!



WERE YOU ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE FIRST "P" REPRESENTS?

It is the **Plot**.

If you already knew that, then well done. If you did not already know that, now you do.

The **Plot** is the storyline; it is the idea you have, broken down into the beginning, the middle, and the ending.

Before you start writing, you should know what series or sequence of actions and events your story should take. Simply put, you should know how your story begins, what happens in the middle, and especially how it ends. This includes any sub-plot or sub-plots, but they should always fit into the main plot to avoid going off track.

THINK DEPARTURE, DIRECTION, AND DESTINATION.

Before you depart from any given point, you should already know your destination and what direction will lead you there.

ARE YOU READY TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF PLOT?

Imagine that your seven-word story is an idea, then determine the plot of the idea in less than 500 words.

Complete yours before reading mine.

IDEA: LEVERAGED, JOE STEALS BLUE PHONE IN MIAMI (413 WORDS)

After two years of inactivity and with depleting funds, Joe, a professional thief, organises a heist in the mansion of a wealthy man named Phillip. Joe is caught, restrained in handcuffs, and tortured for answers on his identity and motives, which he doesn't give. When he's left alone, Joe breaks out of his restraints using a pin buried in one of his sleeves. He knocks out two guards and escapes but doesn't go too far when Phillip calls and tells him that his wife has been abducted from his house, along with his two children. They had been identified after quickly circulating his snapshot underground while he was being tortured.

In exchange for his freedom, Joe proposes to steal a valuable blue phone from a secured facility in Miami that belongs to someone simply known as V. He reveals that he wanted to rob Phillip to get enough money to plan the Miami heist. Joe's family is kept as leverage, and he is given a deadline of ten days to deliver the phone, or his family would be killed.

Joe faces a lot of challenges along the way because after stealing the phone, some armed men come after him. He gets contacted by Kev, his skilled former techie associate who tells him that there is a tracking device in the phone and reveals the content of the phone to him. Joe gives a fake phone to Phillip within the deadline, but when Phillip realises that Joe had set him up, it is too late, because Joe and his family are already long gone.

The phone is empty and V has been led to Phillip, as the supposed thief, and there is a blood bath. The Intelligence Bureau, whose murdered undercover agent the phone belonged to, tracks it down to Phillip's mansion and arrests V, the only survivor in the blood bath, after double-crossing Phillip and killing him.

Joe, now safe with his family, thinks of selling the content of the phone to the highest bidder, he is a thief after all, but a specific intel in the device implicates Kev, and Joe, by association, thereby forcing Joe to have a rethink before making a decision.

In the end, Joe and Kev work together and agree to sell the intel to everyone implicated or mentioned in it, and in the process, they make enough money to last them a lifetime. With a change of identity, they relocate to an exotic island along with Joe's family.



How was the exercise?

MAYBE IT WAS A LITTLE DIFFICULT, BUT IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS YOUR FIRST TIME OF FOLLOWING THIS PROCESS. YOU CAN RETRY THE EXERCISE, OR YOU CAN PRACTICE AGAIN ANOTHER TIME USING A DIFFERENT SEVEN-WORD STORY.

ARE YOU READY TO KNOW WHAT THE NEXT ELEMENT IS?

FIND OUT IN MY WRITING GUIDE

WHAT YOU WILL GET

1

Develop your story using practical exercises for each element of writing.

2

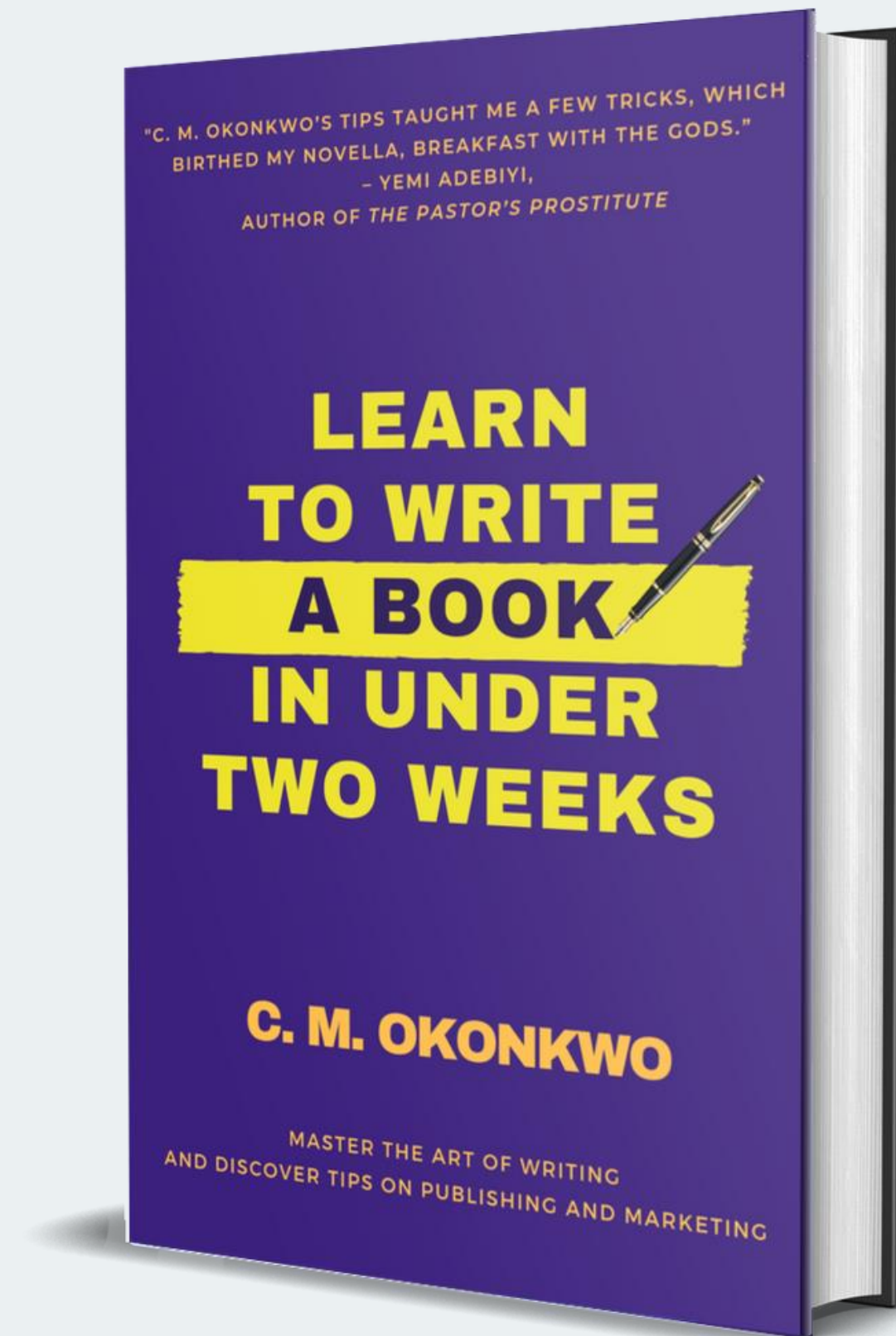
Create templates to guide your writing like Character List and Timeline Sheet.

3

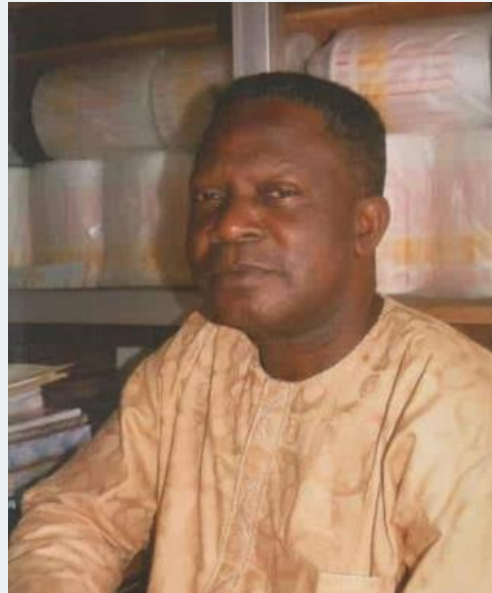
Write the first chapter of your story by the end of the guide.

4

Complete your book in less than two weeks after the guide.



WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK?



Yemi Adebisi, Author

"C. M. Okonkwo's tips taught me a few tricks, which birthed my novella, BREAKFAST WITH THE GODS."



Jane Michael Ekanem, Fashion Designer

"This book is the true meaning of a guide, as the author doesn't tell you how, but shows you how."



Brenda Eziafakaego Nwafor, Author

"The tips in this book are to writing what spurs are to horses."



Rukky Dan-Egua, Editor

"The structured guidelines and processes in this book rekindled my long lost love for writing and a story I once abandoned."

SOME IMPORTANT FAQ

IS THE GUIDE FREE?

The guide is not free, but you will surely get value for your money and time.

It goes for USD 9.99 (NGN 4,000) only for e-book, and USD 19.99 (NGN 8,000) for print.

WHERE CAN I GET THE GUIDE?

You can get the guide in print on Amazon, and as an ebook also on Amazon, Smashwords, AppleBooks, Barnes&Noble...

You can get an e-copy directly from my website. Please, visit: www.cmokonkwo.com/non-fiction and click on the book.

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THANK YOU!

I look forward to hearing from you!

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