

Mind Mapping Tree Exercise

During the summer, use one of the books you've read (actually, you can do this with all of them if you'd like), and mind map it.

Here's how:

- Take a blank sheet of paper and hold it horizontal (sideways).
- Write the title of the book in the middle of the page and circle it.
- Draw a 'branch' (basically a line) out from your title circle. Then write the first thing that happens in the book but try to keep it to less than five words. Circle it.
- Continue drawing 'branches' & 'circles' clockwise around your middle title circle, highlighting important parts of the story, until you reach the end of the book you read.
THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG WAY TO DO THIS.

The **Mind Mapping Tree** you will create is an example of how you can create your own story – eventually a novel, someday – in an orderly fashion. It will help you to organize your ideas from the theme of your story, your character appearances, action, etc...

Try this on your own: follow the same steps you used when drawing your Mind Mapping Tree from the book you read this summer. You can use this method to develop your ideas throughout your middle grade, high school, college, and adult years of writing.



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