

Basic Beat Sheet

Working Project Title:		Story title here			
Basic Logline or Premise:		Logline goes here			
Word Count (includes title & end-of-act subtitles):		110,000			
Page Count (includes three-act bonus):		437			
ACTS & BEATS	DESCRIPTION	PAGE (approx.)		WORD COUNT	
Act One	Introduce protagonist, hook the reader, and setup the story conflict (foreshadowing, establishing stakes)	1	180	1	27500
Incoming Incident	What event launches the characters toward their first dilemma?	1	79	1	27725
End of the Beginning	What event forces characters to make a choice?	80	180	22000	27500
Act Two	The protagonist reaches to the new goal/takes obstacle, but suffers from one step forward and two steps back	101	300	27500	62500
Mid-Point A1	What events add more conflict?	150		41250	
Midpoint	What event can reinforce the story's goals and stakes?	200		55000	
Mid-Point A2	What events add more conflict?	250		68750	
Climax	What event strips the characters of hope?	273	300	75075	82500
Act Three	The protagonist summons the courage to overcome inner obstacles and conquer the antagonistic force	301	400	82500	110000
Climax	What event pushes the characters to change?	301	300	62500	100010
Resolution	What event shows the characters as their changed selves?	307	400	100010	110000

Note: Download the actual beat sheet—which allows you to update the page and word count numbers to match **your** story—at <http://janisgold.com/beat>.

Or find all of Janis's beat sheets and worksheets at <http://janisgold.com/vault/index/v>