



LitChat September 14 & 16

Topic of the Week: PLOTS, PLACES & PROTAGONISTS

Monday, September 14, 2009

LitChat Welcome to another week of book talk in #litchat. This week we're discussing PLOTS, PLACES & PROTAGONISTS-- where do they come from?

DaveBartlett1 @corb21 You can just do a TweetDeck search for '#litchat' then you'll get a separate column for all the #litchat tweets

corb21 I think I miss TweetChat.... :(#litchat

booksoulmates @corb21 In the search column, type: #litchat and it should all pop up :)

LitChat To participate in #litchat, use Twitter search for hastag #litchat, or log into www.tweetchat.com and enter litchat in window.

mizwrite @corb21 Under "settings" on Tweetdeck you can check "auto-include hashtags in replies." That's what I do! #litchat

LitChat Ready? Begin. Please introduce yourself and join the convo. #litchat

George9Writer We make them up. Story and character made of us, even as we use what we think are external images, plotlines. #litchat

LitChat RT @LitChat: If you have a question for the chat, please send to @litchat w/o hashtag. I will post to chat in order. Thanks! #litchat

LitChat RT @IDreamedISaw: For me it starts with a word or phrase that intrigues me, and from there the "wallpaper" of ideas surrounds it. #litchat

ClaireCaterer I'm a freelance writer of fiction & nonfiction. Novels are my first love. First-timer here on #litchat

hashtager # RT @LitChat: If you have a question for the chat, please send to @litchat w/o hashtag. I will post to chat in order. Thanks! #litchat

Nobilis @LitChat #litchat Why even bother asking the question? Ideas are easy. It's writing that's hard.

<http://tinyurl.com/6cwuhv>

Ilunalila I love school days! It lets me get into #litchat on time :) Spanish writer of fiction mostly kids lit MG and YA. Not pubbed yet

DaveBartlett1 @corb21 nice thing about doing it in TweetDeck is you can keep an eye on other tweets at the same time & your mentions show up too. #litchat

MahalloMedia # # RT @LitChat: If you have a question for the chat, please send to @litchat w/o hashtag. I will post to chat in order. Thanks! #litchat

corb21 @mizwrite trying again, success! #litchat

mizwrite @LitChat This topic intrigues me, but must leave for 1/2 hour. Can't wait to tap back in later! Enjoy, all! #litchat

corb21 @ClaireCaterer welcome! #litchat

corb21 @mizwrite you rock, thank you! :) #litchat

Nobilis @litchat I'm a podcaster and an author of erotic fiction. #litchat

rebeccawoodhead will be on tweetchat for #litchat so might miss tweets. Will catch up later :) x

LitChat Welcome @MahalloMedia and @ClaireCaterer and anyone else following LitChat for the first time. Please join in freely. #litchat

pussreboots I'm a bookblogger and web producer and yearly participant in nanowrimo. :) #litchat

rebeccawoodhead I'm an author-in-waiting from the Cotswolds in England #litchat

LexxClarke I'm a haiku tweeter, general witterer and litchat addict #litchat

pussreboots @rebeccawoodhead I like that term (author-in-waiting). #litchat

scgreen Hello #litchat. It's been a while, but I'm here today.

rebeccawoodhead @pussreboots :) #litchat

LexxClarke Greetings @corb21 @pussreboots @rebeccawoodhead @litchat :o) #litchat

corb21 ok, hi #litchat ters! I'm a publicist for a publishing house in NH I'll be in and out as I learn to balance on my new TweetDeck.

Karen_Palmer Novelist/freelance editor. I start w/char in a particular situation. Let it gather images/events. See if there's enuf for a story. #litchat

senjmito I'm a New Zealand author and poet - six books published so far #litchat
corb21 @LexxClarke hola! #litchat
senjmito For me, stories usually start with either a "What if?", or with putting two seemingly unrelated ideas together. #litchat
ClaireCaterer Like @Karen_Palmer, I often start with character. Less often, a setting really grabs me & begs to have a story told. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @pussreboots prefer to 'aspiring writer' - if I'm not already a writer what's that thing I do that makes words happen on paper? :) #litchat
littleluffycat Texan writer of dark fantasy, mainstream, and kidlit, published in flash fiction. #litchat
ClaireCaterer @senjmito "What If" is the most fun game ever. Suddenly anything is possible. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead My characters and plots just appear. If I think about them too hard they vanish - like dreams. #litchat
LitChat Welcome! Be sure to tag your responses with #litchat to be seen in the chat RT @jennienash: @LitChat I'm new too -- trying to follow...
zumayabooks Publisher, editor and fiction author, not necessarily in that order. I've had stories start because of a phrase or sentence. #litchat
scgreen I'm a writer of non-creature based urban fantasy. Nothing published but still having a blast writing. #litchat
Sirenland For anyone interested in an exotic writers conference, Sirenland begins accepting apps at midnight EST. http://bit.ly/1DuAv0 #litchat
littleluffycat For me things start with a phrase, usually - then I listen to figure out who said it and what's happening. #litchat
Karen_Palmer At some point, everything I read & see seems to relate. The idea gathers weight, feels like a complete world, one to get lost in. #litchat
senjmito When I get an idea, it usually comes with a sense of whether it's more suitable for a story, a poem or (occasionally) a novel #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @LexxClarke *waves* #litchat
Karen_Palmer @littleluffycat Phrases, yes. They get stuck in your head. Usually with good reason. #litchat
ClaireCaterer Frustrating to be asked early on "So what's the book about?" It can be so fragile; just a few words could stomp it out 4ever. #litchat
zumayabooks Based on the responses, the answer to the question is "Just about anything can spark the creative fire." #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @littleluffycat '...then I listen to figure out who said it and what's happening' Love that. #litchat
LitChat Q1 PLOTS: What are the most important elements of plot and why does it matter? #litchat
LexxClarke It seems that for a lot of you, the ideas come from the subconscious #litchat
chooseadventure #litchat Given that our books are in the second person, we start with the "you" and try to head "you" off to a compelling choice.
pussreboots Ideas come to me in dreams, from places I've been and sometimes people I've met. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @ClaireCaterer You hear all the time that if you can't describe it easily, it's not a good idea. That's not true. #litchat
corb21 Sometimes I dream storylines...#litchat
rebeccawoodhead @LitChat pace is important and the emotional arc #litchat
publishingworks #LitChat As a publisher, I don't get much time to write. I do think up titles, however, and keep a log for retirement. #litchat
pussreboots @LitChat Q1: Conflict. There has to be something to get the characters up and moving. Conflict can be subtle but it should be there #litchat
llunalila I usually start idea by writing an intriguing scene that pops in my mind. Then start working on plot & character sheets. #litchat
ClaireCaterer @Karen_Palmer Thank God someone else thinks so. Not an agent's dream, I know, to be unable to articulate it! #litchat
MsRebecca RT @Sirenland Interested in an exotic writers conference? Sirenland begins accepting apps at midnight EST. http://bit.ly/1DuAv0 #litchat

hprw Most important part of plot is conflict. It matters because without it, the story won't move ahead. #litchat
CarolyBurnsBass @corb21 Me too. I've dreamed scenes that I've drawn from in stories and my novels. #litchat
corb21 @LitChat Tension! #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @ClaireCaterer that's so true. I'm v secretive about WIPs early on - @George9Writer - you are too aren't you? #litchat
llunalila RT @corb21: Sometimes I dream storylines...#litchat ME TOO! Most of the time, when go to bed, think about stories & work them out
corb21 @CarolyBurnsBass sometimes I have to write them down RIGHT when I wake up...oft in the middle of the night and sideways.... #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @corb21 I used to fall asleep reading on the train & find myself completing plotlines in my head better than the book I was reading #litchat
hprw Ideas are all over the place. The difficult part is sorting out the good ones, and then writing them in a convincing, gripping way. #litchat
LitChat Let's keep the pitches out of Litchat for the next hour, okay everyone? Afterwards, pitch away. @MsRebecca #litchat
Karen_Palmer @publishingworks Coming up with titles is a useful skill. My second book almost went to the printer w/out a title. #litchat
corb21 @publishingworks channeling Meibers.... #LitChat #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @corb21 ...most disappointed with the 'real' story when I awoke & carried on reading. That has to be a signal to start writing. #litchat
publishingworks Q1 @litchat A good plot needs to give readers a reason to read. Sometimes it's tension, sometimes it may be relevance to real life #litchat
ClaireCaterer Q1: Plot has to keep moving, like a shark. Each scene is its own miniplot. Keep the pages turning, even if not an action story. #litchat
corb21 RT @Karen_Palmer @publishingworks Coming up with titles is a useful skill. My second book almost went to the printer w/out a title. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead ooh yes.. tension and conflict. They're so important. #litchat
senjmito IMO the most important elementsof plot is the ability to surprise while remaining plausible (unless the story is just plum crazy!) #litchat
corb21 @ClaireCaterer oooh miniplot. I like it! #litchat
Karen_Palmer @senjmito Surprise while being plausible is often something that gets layered in during revision, yes? #litchat
jjochwat I'd add desire ... when a character wants something, tension and conflict naturally follow. #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @ClaireCaterer plots and subplots always works well - keeps the readers interest more than a single plot could ever do. #litchat
littleluffycat @Karen_Palmer synchronicity-when everything seems to relate like that, I feel like the universe is talking to me, telling the story #litchat
publishingworks @Karen_Palmer Well, sometimes "untitled" can be a title, I suppose! #litchat
scgreen Q1: Tension & conflict, but momentum is also important. I need to feel like the story is moving towards something. #litchat
luciaorth The description of plot/conflict that short story writer Rebecca Curtis (Columbia Univ writing program prof) uses is "resistance." #litchat
senjmito @Karen_Palmer It probably should - but I tend to focus on setting & plot first, and layer in character and description later #litchat
rebeccawoodhead The characters come first for me. They bring the plot with them. #litchat
bookish_type Really fun #litchat going on right now, for peeps who want to join in.
CarolyBurnsBass Q1 The agent I was courting with my WIP said plot was all about urgency. Urgency creates momentum. Momentum keeps pages turning. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @adobbs #litchat is on at the mo if you'd like to join us :)
Karen_Palmer @CarolyBurnsBass I like that. Urgency. And it applies to story, chapter, individual scene, paragraph, sentence. #litchat
littleluffycat @rebeccawoodhead EXACTLY #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @CarolyBurnsBass urgency. That's brilliant. I love EVERYTHING on litchat tonight! #litchat

pussreboots @Karen_Palmer Suspense, surprise and mystery. #litchat
CarolyBurnsBass @luciaorth Ooh, resistance. Sounds intriguing. Can you elaborate a bit more? #litchat
ClaireCaterer @rebeccawoodhead Some characters, like real folks, are magnets for conflict! #litchat
llunalila @CarolyBurnsBass great to keep in mind. Plot moves w/ urgency #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @ClaireCaterer It's so gratifying to see all the subplots work themselves out by the end of the book - for the reader & the author #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @ClaireCaterer mine are! #litchat
corb21 RT @bookish_type: Really fun #litchat going on right now, for peeps who want to join in.
senjmito I have to go off to my day job now - the time zone's a bit of a problem in NZ for LitChat - but I've enjoyed taking part! #litchat
CarolyBurnsBass @ClaireCaterer Bravo. Some characters are magnets for conflict. (Yep, just like real life.) #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @writeranonymous you going to be brave this week and join us on #litchat? We're talking plots right now :)
LitChat @senjmito Thanks for joining us. Have a great day. #litchat
LitChat Q2 PLOT: How do you lead readers to suspend disbelief in a story or novel? #litchat
pussreboots @LitChat Q2 Make enough of it believable. The rest will follow. Also make characters live in the world. Don't explain world to me. #litchat
luciaorth #litchat Got to run, headed back to university.
DaveBartlett1 I find sub-plots more intriguing when they initially appear separate from the main plot & gradually prove to be more relevant. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Q2 If the terms of the story world are set up from the start, readers w/suspend disbelief. Takes specific details, emotional truth. #litchat
scgreen Q2: Write with authority. If the little things are believable, then the bigger things should be easier to swallow. #litchat
dianaorgain #litchat I think you have to give the readers REASONS to suspend disbelief a) through connection to character b) seeding the plot elements
littlefluffycat #litchat Q2 I like to do realworld fantasy, so I go from something real to something just next door to real-reachable non-real.
Karen_Palmer @DaveBartlett1 Agree re subplots. If it all lines up neatly from the start, the author's hand is too visible. #litchat
ClaireCaterer Agree w. @pussreboots. If characters believe, if details are crisp, readers will follow--even to a distant planet. #litchat
LitChat @luciaorth Thanks for stopping by, Lucia. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @LitChat Q2 I believe in what I write. I make sure I know the characters inside out. If you believe in the characters, you believe. #litchat
luciaorth @CarolynBurnsBass #litchat George Saunders stories; resistance isn't "beads on a string" plot but rather a char wanting & not getting - yet.
pussreboots Q2 a bit turn off for me is when the author/character has to explain the world to me. Show don't tell. #litchat
llunalila Q2 Also using sensory details, that readers can relate to even if they haven't experienced the same as MC #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @Karen_Palmer ...& the clever little twists the reader doesn't see coming makes them return for more: Gets you that 2nd book deal! #litchat
LexxClarke @rebeccawoodhead If you as the author believe in the characters then the reader will to because of how they are portrayed by you #litchat
DutchessAbroad hi there. Just read dreadful list of agents' no, no's. No starting with scenery - showing off #litchat #litchat
dianaorgain @pussreboots #litchat agreed on the show don't tell - that is huge
CarolyBurnsBass I have a hard time suspending disbelief in books (& films/tv), especially when a chara does something stupid just to move plot. #litchat
ClaireCaterer Q2 Most details, even far-out ones, can be related to something real in a reader's life. Find that sensory link & you've got them. #litchat

Doublelattemama @llunalila I agree w/ your point about sensory details - I am trying to focus on this in all my work #litchat
punzhu_puzzles @LitChat RE: "Q2 PLOT: ..suspend disbelief? #litchat " Know your audience and then craft characters + plot to capture their interest.
DaveBartlett1 @pussreboots explaining the world in detail was a major part of works by people like DH Lawrence & that always worked well for him. #litchat
ClaireCaterer @CarolyBurnsBass If you're shouting "Come ON!" or "WHY would she do that?" you've got trouble. #litchat
DutchessAbroad Exposition of historic events by narrator in novel as though N.F. Irks me too #litchat
CarolyBurnsBass @luciaorth Cool! George Saunders "resistance" approach is not unlike the screenwriting W form with plot reversals. #litchat
zumayabooks Q2--Mark Twain said it: Fiction has to make sense. If it does, then readers will accept much they'd scorn in real life. #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @pussreboots ..Lawrence would often start his stories with a 'wide angle' view of the location, moving in on his main characters.. #litchat
mizwrite Q2: I will believe almost any fictional "world" as long as the characters seem "real" -- emotions, reactions, etc. #litchat
pussreboots @DaveBartlett1 But Lawrence does his explaining as a form of social commentary. That's different than "my world works this way" #litchat
littlefluffycat @DutchessAbroad agreed, you've always got to be asking yourself, "does this advance the story?" if not, bye-bye. . . #litchat
corb21 RT @zumayabooks Mark Twain said it: Fiction has to make sense. If it does, then readers will accept much they'd scorn in real life. #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @pussreboots ...pretty much like Spielberg did in some of his early films, incidentally, though in cinematographic terms, obviously #litchat
CarolyBurnsBass @ClaireCaterer Exactly! My shoutage is "Oh, PLEASE!" My family hates watching films with me. #litchat
susanmpls @LitChat I'm w/ @mizwrite, and will believe almost any fictional scenario as long as it makes sense. #litchat
scgreen Q3? #litchat
corb21 @CarolyBurnsBass I like "MEGO" - My Eyes Glazed Over... #litchat
LitChat RT @Nobilis: @LitChat The best way to get readers to suspend disbelief is to make sure YOU believe it. #litchat
littlefluffycat @ClaireCaterer Got to have motivation, and motivation I can understand. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @Doublelattemama you might find this helpful http://bit.ly/2fQBX #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @pussreboots No, I meant Lawrence is often guilty of blatant exposition before he gets down to the detail of the story proper... #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @pussreboots ..."The Odour of Chrysanthemums" is a typical example. #litchat
LitChat Q3 PLACES: How does setting influence the plot and characters in a story? #litchat
ClaireCaterer @littlefluffycat Yes, definitely. Motivation is key. Readers want to identify and think, What would I do? #litchat
pussreboots @DaveBartlett1 Lawrence's lengthy explanations don't bother me. #litchat
llunalila @LitChat setting must be the best for each story, not the one you know most. Each story needs a different place #litchat
littlefluffycat @ClaireCaterer They want to BE there! #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @pussreboots I suppose the method a writer portrays 'their world' & the level to which they do it has a lot to do with genre #litchat
mizwrite @littlefluffycat Yes! Character's motivation -- that's huge for suspending disbelief! It's that's right, the story seems real. #litchat
pussreboots @llunalila Or a new interpretation of the same place. #litchat
househomeauthor Setting can—often should—have a profound influence on plot & characters. Sometimes, setting IS a character. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @littlefluffycat they do. It takes a wise and curious cat to know this :) #litchat

CarolyBurnsBass Q3: Setting is the physical and temporal character in a story; it's as important to me as plot and protags. #litchat
LexxClarke The chars need to make sense in the location otherwise the plot goes nowhere #litchat
ClaireCaterer Q3 Setting is the box your characters move around in--and are stuck in. It constricts them but gives them freedom too. Crucial. #litchat
CarolyBurnsBass @househomeauthor Yes. I love a book where the setting is a character, eg, Tara in GONE WITH THE WIND. #litchat
scgreen Q3: I like to think of setting as another character. If it doesn't aid the story, why is it set there? #litchat
corb21 RT @househomeauthor Setting can—often should—have a profound influence on plot & characters. Sometimes, setting IS a character. #litchat
CDominiqueG @LexxClarke Happy Monday Lexxy and Litchat #litchat
techtigger #litchat - Q3 - reminds me of nature vs nurture question - how much does environment shape a person/character?
littleluffycat @llunalila oh man, that's so true. People are where they are, they are where the story puts them. Can't force that. #litchat
ClaireCaterer @scgreen Right. Setting has to have a reason for being. #litchat
jjochwat Q3. Setting is a box, but it's also a set of possibilities. A part of my last book was in LA, and some "only in LA" things happened #litchat
LexxClarke @CDominiqueG Happy Monday to you :o) #litchat
techtigger #litchat - i think how the character reacts to environment is what is interesting - do they change it, or allow it to change them? or both?
DaveBartlett1 @CarolyBurnsBass There has to be a certain level of believability (!) in everything. How high that level needs to be depends... #litchat
mizwrite I love to see how a setting influences the characters (motivations) -- where they grew up, or if they're visiting, ex pats, etc. #litchat
techtigger #litchat - think Dr. Who - character goes to diff. env. every episode, it's how he changes place/events that makes interesting story
mizwrite RT @llunalila: setting must be the best for each story, not the one you know most. #litchat {great point}
CDominiqueG @techtigger I don't think the environment shapes the charac, its vice versa & setting makes the plot and characters more believable. #litchat
Georgia_McBride Setting for me always starts within the mind or emotional state of the main character. Wherever (s)he goes, you go. #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @CarolyBurnsBass ...upon things like genre. I can accept just about anything from a fantasy story/film... #litchat
scgreen character, plot & setting need to be like a braid. When strands are out of place, it looks like crap. #litchat
ClaireCaterer @techtigger Yes, re. Dr Who! He is the constant, but of course each place affects him as well. #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @CarolyBurnsBass ...but not from historical fiction, where I have my own knowledge to base things on. #litchat
adobbs Answer me this, #litchat: Should a smiley come before or after the end of sentence punctuation mark :)? :(
ClaireCaterer @scgreen Are you looking at my hair? Darn web cam ... #litchat
DaveBartlett1 @adobbs I think you need #emoticonchat, not #litchat
techtigger #litchat - i like some stories where character starts out letting env. rule actions, then decides to change it instead - shows journey/growth
rebeccawoodhead setting is crucial to my novels - I agree that it is another character. #litchat
ClaireCaterer @adobbs After. I need to know if you're shouting or questioning before I see your smile. #litchat
llunalila @mizwrite of course! Setting can suggest a story if it's strong enough as well #litchat
mizwrite @CDominiqueG But the environment shapes the character if that's where the character grew up. It can reveal characteristics. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @adobbs punctuation in twitter is up for grabs. Let the twitter glitter fall where it may! :) #litchat

CarolyBurnsBass @DaveBartlett1 Agree w/ both examples. I think suspend disbelief has much to do with the individual's ability to escape reality. #litchat
many_yarns @llunalila How many writing prompts start out with a setting and go from there? Setting is definitely important. #litchat
DaveBartlett1 Got to say goodbye folks. I have to jump out of #litchat now. I need to watch the pilot of 'Warehouse 13' and can't do it with just one eye!
techtigger @ClaireCaterer: re. Dr Who..but of course each place affects him as well. #litchat - yup, tho early Dr. didn't change so much :)
rebeccawoodhead @adobbs thanks for joining us. It's easier to follow on tweetchat.com :) #litchat
Georgia_McBride Some use setting as a cruch/excuse to not develop characters fully making readers work 2 get info from other sources #litchat
ClaireCaterer I've enjoyed this, #litchat tweeps! Must go help teen with homework. Till next time..
adobbs Do you spend much time describing a setting, though? I tend to keep descriptions sparse unless it's quite important to the story. #litchat
mizwrite So which comes first --do you write your character and choose his setting, or choose the setting and create good character to deal? #litchat
LitChat This hour has really flown by. Feel free to keep the convo alive, but do come back on Wednesday for more on PLOT, PLACES & PROTAGS. #litchat
Georgia_McBride @adobbs Me too, preferring to let readers imagine as they wish/so story is personal to each reader. #litchat
llunalila @mizwrite normally come up w/ general ideas for both & then start focussing & deciding #litchat
CDominiqueG @mizwrite in some instances but I think it depends on which angle the writer is approaching the character & plot from #litchat
many_yarns @mizwrite For me it's neither. I start with a scenario and build from there. Setting and characters draw from that. #litchat
Georgia_McBride Gotta run, thanks for letting me chime in... #litchat
CDominiqueG @mizwrite depends on my mood, sometimes ill feel like a certain person or ill feel like im in a particular place, idea pops up &... #litchat
rebeccawoodhead @adobbs I think the 'show don't tell' concept is important there. I describe the experience the character has with the environment #litchat
rebeccawoodhead I'm heading off Tweetchat now. Thanks everyone. Great chat. Thanks to my new followers too :) x #litchat
shadowsinstone @adobbs This is something I have trouble with. My writing tends to be on the 'skeletal' side. Cp's help with those oversights. #litchat
techtigger @adobbs - how you handle description can change depending on if you are using 1st, 2nd, 3rd person - is a balancing act regardless #litchat
techtigger @adobbs - i like to look at my fav books, see how they handle description - use that as guide :) #litchat
agnieszkasshoes key to description 4 me: use metaphor/simile instead of adjectives. Better rhythm AND more striking #litchat
agnieszkasshoes @adobbs yeah, I don't think we need to know what a place is like; we need to know how it FEELS, though (hence metaphor not adj) #litchat
CDominiqueG @agnieszkasshoes I agree with that #litchat
techtigger #litchat - helps to use other senses than sight all of the time for description - sound, taste, feel, smell, can evoke response in reader
techtigger #litchat - "there was a foul smell in the room" vs "she wrinkled her nose at the stinky, gym sock smell" vs "did you smell that? ewww!"
CDominiqueG @jhotep they may but when travelling with no trained bf like @shitshoveller 's, its wise to dress comfortably #litchat
techtigger #litchat - all have more impact than "there were old gym gym socks in the room, and other clothes draped about"
Loucreates RT @rebeccawoodhead: setting is crucial to my novels - I agree that it is another character. #litchat
WEDNESDAY: September 16,2009

LitChat: Here we go for Wednesday's LitChat. We're discussing PLOTS, PLACES & PROTAGS: Where do ideas come from? #litchat
LitChat: Please step into the salon, introduce yourself. Ready begin... #litchat
kashicat: People following me: I'll be on #litchat for the next hour, so you could see a lot of tweets for a while.
ClaireCaterer: I'm a fiction writer first, but also write articles & blogs. Current WIP: Upper-grade/YA fantasy. #litchat
JSColley: Plots can come from anywhere, a song, watching people interact, your own experience, a news story - which one of mine did #litchat
maggiedana: Hello all. What a great topic today. Plots, places, and protags. Could almost be title for a whodunnit. #litchat
lillygustavus: forgot hashtagQ1: if I were to guess, ideas come mostly from real life situations, some weird dreams we may have, or places we love #litchat
LitChat: LitChat is coming to you live from the gorgeous Andaz Hotel in West Hollywood, where plots, places & protags are on every corner. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead: time for the picnic of literary discussion we call #litchat Will be on tweetchat for a bit. Much chatter for an hour or so. See u later x
lillygustavus: I've read somewhere that a good writer needs to be very perceptive and a good observer of other people #litchat
nicolamorgan: I am a UK YA writer, currently struggling to deal with plot of novel 10. Think I got there today though! #litchat
LitChat: Little reminder to please stay on topic and hold your personal pitches until after our scheduled chat concludes. Thanks. #litchat
maggiedana: @LitChat Good grief! You'll need an army of notebooks to keep up with this location for ideas on plots, places, and protags. #litchat
Doublelattemama: RT @LitChat: Here we go for Wednesday's LitChat. We're discussing PLOTS, PLACES & PROTAGS: Where do ideas come from? #litchat
nicolamorgan: Current PLOT urban gritty + shocking; PLACE London #litchat
maggiedana: @nicolamorgan Hi Nicola. Good to see you. Can you see me? It's kind of cloudy here, but I'm wearing neon pink slippers. #litchat
nicolamorgan: Current idea came a while ago, very vague, but this week i had to get properly into character. Had huge probs but cracked it today #litchat
rebeccawoodhead: @thejohnkeenan if you're about - #litchat is afoot :)
nicolamorgan: @maggiedana I can see you! Sadly, @hprw has computer probs ... #litchat
maggiedana: @nicolamorgan What do you think helped you to crack the problems? #litchat
pitchparlour: What are we talking about? #litchat
JSColley: That is why reading is so important for writers - you can get so many ideas for plots in the simplest of phrases or a news story #litchat
kashicat: Forgot hashtags. I had novel idea from exclaiming after news report, "I with govts would just regulate religions!" #litchat
Doublelattemama: @LitChat hello! Aspiring author - couldn't say what genre - still experimenting. Doing #nanowrimo this nov #litchat
wendykwebb: Do you choose a plot, a place or a character first? #litchat
maggiedana: @nicolamorgan Oh, bother. Sorry to hear @hprw is floundering. Must be all those sheep. #litchat
LitChat: We have one question in the queue from Monday, coming right up. Do send @LitChat any others you wish to post to chat. #litchat
rebeccawoodhead: Am here. Hello everyone. I write novels - author-in-waiting - and live in Dickensian poverty in a v posh part of England. #litchat
nicolamorgan: Protag was problem - 2 chars + 1st one easy but 2nd one wouldn't come. Motivation intangible - till he killed someone. Result! #litchat
maggiedana: Great question. RT @wendykwebb: Do you choose a plot, a place or a character first? #litchat
BenRubinstein: @wendykwebb Good question! I've been working on a book, got characters & place, but struggling with compelling plot! #litchat
rebeccawoodhead: @maggiedana hello M'dear #litchat

nicolamorgan: @wendykwebb No rule - depends where idea comes from. Every book has been different for me, different starting point #litchat

LitChat: Q1 fm @susampls Do any authors create characters & plot then choose setting that will best advance story the way they've imagined? #litchat

techtigger: hello! writer, web/interactive designer, computer geek - writing from somewhere west of philadelphia #litchat

scgreen: Back again. Two #litchat s in a row.

llunalila: @maggiedana depends on the story really. There are stories where plot comes first & others it's an amazing character that flips #litchat

corb21: me too! RT @scgreen: Back again. Two #litchat s in a row.

nicolamorgan: @LitChat for me setting never guiding principle, tho has sometimes ended up being important. Never crucial as starting point tho #litchat

wendykwebb: I started my current ms with place, and now I can't figure out why my character is there. Gah! #litchat

llunalila: @LitChat Q1. Normally yes, I start from plot /character but... there has been a story about a place I had to tell still strugglin #litchat

scgreen: Q1: I'm sure some do as others might create the setting then those who might reside there. #litchat

nicolamorgan: @wendykwebb I don't think place is important enough to be starting-point #litchat

corb21: Publicist extrodinaire, Hello #litchat

Doublelattemama: @LitChat q1 I've rewritten the setting radically part way thru a piece at times bc another setting worked better #litchat

maggiedana: For my 2nd novel, I asked "WHAT IF" ... and then I added characters and setting. Doesn't always happen that way. #litchat

kashicat: My stories start either with plot idea (e.g. the "regulated religions" novel) or 2 char's w/ a conflict. Setting us'ly comes after #litchat

Joe_Wallace: In my new novel, it all started with Ruby, my main character. Everything else was changeable, but she was the reason for the book. #litchat

LaurenBaratzL: Just checking out TweetChat in anticipation of Friday, to see if I can negotiate it - don't mind me! #litchat