Cambridge University Press 978-1-316-51344-6 — The Book You Need to Read to Write the Book You Want to Write Sarah Burton , Jem Poster Table of Contents <u>More Information</u>

CONTENTS

Preface		page xiii	
Acknowledgements		xiv	
I	Getting started	I	
2	Memory and imagination	7	
3	Character	17	
	Introducing characters	17	
	Character and plot	23	
	Characters are individuals	24	
	Character and narrative voice	27	
	How many characters?	28	
	Minor characters	29	
	Character isn't fixed	30	
	Planning characters	32	
4	Plot and structure I	35	
	Getting to grips with plot	35	
	Telling it slant	48	
5	Plot and structure II	55	
	The patterns of plot	55	
	Hiding plot – putting doors in alleyways	64	
	Narrative time	65	
6	Form and length	70	
	Definitions	70	
	Novels	71	
	Short stories	72	
	Flash fiction	76	

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press 978-1-316-51344-6 — The Book You Need to Read to Write the Book You Want to Write Sarah Burton , Jem Poster Table of Contents <u>More Information</u>

	Contents			
7	Dialogue	83		
	Dialogue matters	87		
	Carrying information in dialogue	90		
	Capturing character in dialogue	93		
	Writing between the lines	97		
	Attributing dialogue	102		
	Punctuating dialogue conventionally	106		
	Alternative ways of punctuating dialogue	107		
	Accent and dialect	109		
	Other worlds, other times	I I 2		
	How do we show a character's thoughts?	115		
8	Narrative viewpoint and narrative voice	119		
	Where do we stand?	119		
	Author and narrator – knowing and telling	120		
	First- and third-person narratives: the basics	123		
	How perspective changes the story	124		
	Multiple-viewpoint narratives	127		
	The range of perspectives	131		
	Centres of consciousness in the third-person narrative	136		
	Character and state of mind as revealed in first-person voices	139		
	The unreliable narrator	144		
	First-person plural narration	150		
	Second-person address	151		
	Other-world narrative voices	155		
9	Beginnings and endings; tension and pace	161		
	A good enough beginning	161		
	Exposition and starting in medias res	167		
	A sense of an ending	171		
	Tension and pace	176		
10	Description	184		
	The purpose of description	184		
	Preconceptions about style	185		
	Clichés	186		
	Metaphors and similes	187		
	Modifiers	190		

Х

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-51344-6 - The Book You Need to Read to Write the Book You Want to Write
Sarah Burton , Jem Poster
Table of Contents
More Information

Describing place	194
How much detail?	20:
Showing through description	200
I Research	20
Keeping research unobtrusive	2 I
Subjects	2 I
Sources	2 I
Serving your story	2 I
2 Drawing it all together	2.20
An approach to editing	22
Editing techniques	22
Getting value from a critical reader	23
Editing in response to notes	23
Accepting imperfection	23
3 Publication and the writing life	24
Publishing short stories	24
Agents and editors	24
Targeting and pitching	24
Understanding rejection	24
Interpreting rejection	24
It's just an opinion	24
Hold your nerve	25
The writing life	25
Writer's block	25
Set achievable goals	25
Stick at it	25
Feed the compost heap	25
The pleasures of writing	25
Notes	26
Select bibliography	27
Index	27