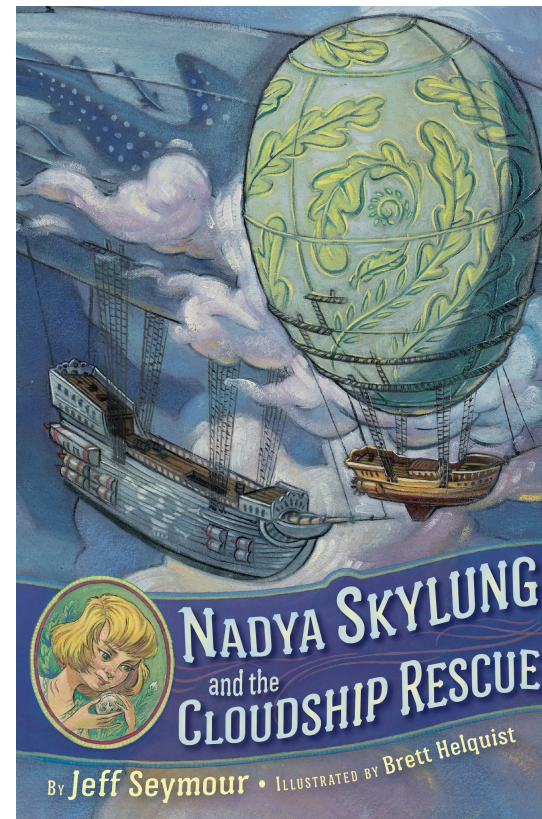
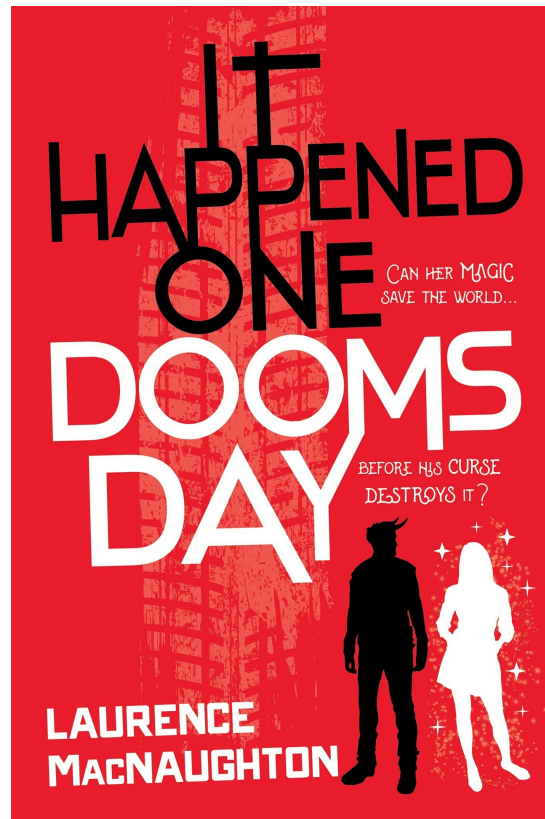




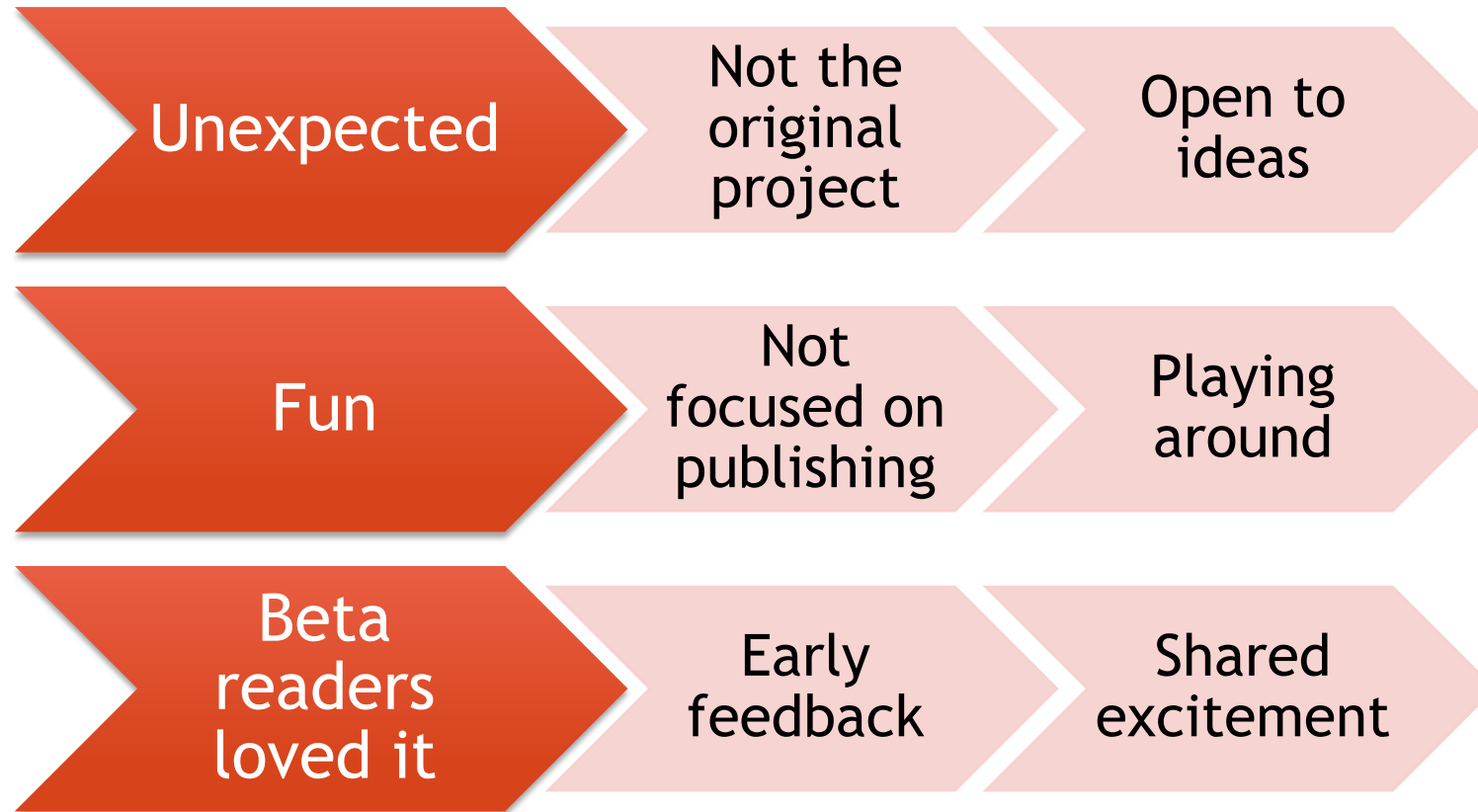
Follow Your Heart: Choosing the Story That Keeps Your Passion Alive

James Persichetti
Lost Hat Editorial Services, LLC

A Tale of Two Debut Authors



A Tale of Two Debut Authors



How to Find the Right Story

Refining Ideas

Character web

Combine two ideas

Fear of not staying true to original idea

Author's love affair

Honeymoon phase

Excited after months

What are you reading? Watching?

Feedback

Is this exciting?

Does it make sense?

When to get feedback

Getting to the Heart

Method: Minimum Viable Product

“

If you don't know what the heart of your story is, whether it's a serious emotional tale with lighter moments, or a lighthearted romp through a wacky universe, you're going to have disconnects everywhere.

”

James Portnow, *Extra Credits*

Writer, game designer, video game developer consultant

Minimum Viable Product: Sea of Thieves



- ▶ **MVP:** A game where players have to work as a team, follow a treasure map, identify landmarks, and dig up buried treasure.



- ▶ **Does not include:** krakens, ship battles, mermaids, swords, storms, merchants, sharks, outposts, skeletons, volcanos, etc.

Minimum Viable Product: Writing the “Seed”

What is MVP?

- Video game development
- The CORE of your story

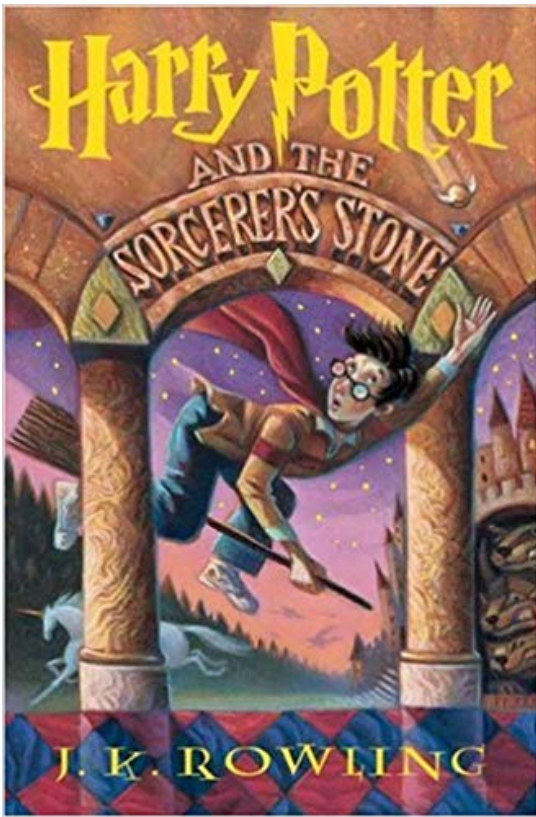
Why create a Seed?

- Goal: to learn
- Test: Does this work?
- Test: Is it fun and worth reading?

How to create a Seed in writing

- Short query
- Character with a goal
- Conflict and moral struggle

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone



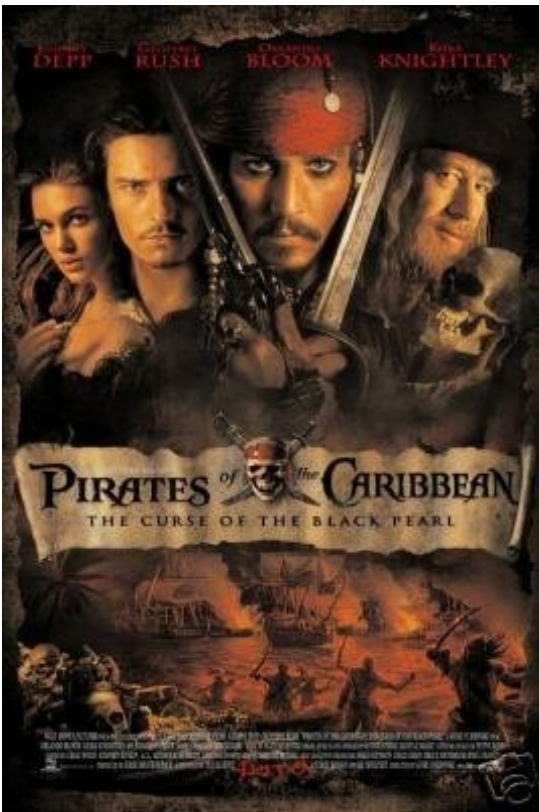
- ▶ Harry Potter, an outcast boy living in an abusive household, is invited to a school of magic.
- ▶ For the first time, he is accepted into a found family of friends.
- ▶ Harry and his friends must solve a mystery in order to defeat the dark wizard that killed his parents.
- ▶ **Does not include:** Dumbledore, Quidditch, Hagrid, school houses, trolls in the bathroom, smelly turbans, three-headed dogs, moving staircases, Diagon Alley...

Star Wars: A New Hope



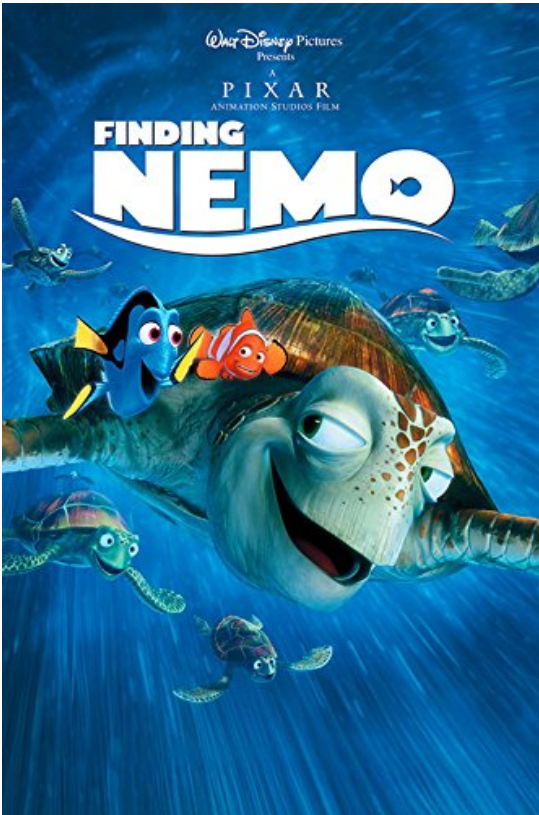
- ▶ When farm boy Luke Skywalker gets a message from a Rebel leader asking for his old friend Obi Wan, he joins with Obi Wan and a scoundrel pilot to rescue her.
- ▶ Luke must learn the ways of the Force, a mystical energy from an old warrior religion, to stop the Empire from destroying the Rebel base.
- ▶ **Does not include:** Chewbacca, lightsabers, X-Wings, Stormtroopers, the *Millennium Falcon*, Darth Vader...

The Curse of the Black Pearl



- ▶ William Turner must trust one pirate to help save his beloved from another pirate, and ultimately must become a pirate himself to succeed.
- ▶ **Does not include:** Commodore Norrington, Aztec gold, the *Black Pearl*, Mr. Gibbs, skeletons, monkeys, burning rum on an island, Gov. Swan

Finding Nemo



- ▶ Marlin is a father afraid of leaving the safety of his reef.
- ▶ When his overprotective nature pushes his own son away, getting Nemo captured by a scuba diver, Marlin must brave the open ocean to rescue his son.
- ▶ When he and his forgetful friend Dory finally find Nemo, Marlin must realize that his son is more capable than he thought, and even though the open ocean is terrifying, it is full of amazing adventures and new friends.
- ▶ **Does not include:** Crush, P Sherman 42 Wallaby Way Sydney, sharks, dirty fish tanks, the East Australian Current, jellyfish...

Questions?

James Persichetti
Lost Hat Editorial Services, LLC

LostHatEditorial.com
James@LostHatEditorial.com
@JPPersichetti