**Endings Notes**

-Endings are the reader’s final impression of what they’ve read and they seal the satisfaction with your piece

-Endings can be happy or sad and it can leave the reader uplifted or thoughtful or heartbroken

-All good things must come to an end and that means your story or book must end too. It is always good to leave your reader in a good place when it comes to the end of your book. Your goal is to end your story in a “not lame way.”

1.) Effective endings show or suggest the result of the story’s conflict.

-The story’s conflict is what gives the readers a reason to turn the pages and at the end the readers want a payoff or a reward.

-Some stories have neat and tidy endings but others only hint at the result of the conflict and trust the readers to fill in the blanks.

-Short stories tend to have a subtle approach. There may not be time to wrap up the whole of the story and doing so may seem artificial. So instead of tying it into a neat package, hint at the ending and let the reader guess

-the key here is to have the conflict and if you can’t identify the conflict then you need to go back and fix up your conflict

2.) Effective story endings come from the main character’s actions

-this means that story endings can be more satisfying when the main character causes them. The character deals with a conflict with their strengths and weaknesses. They might win the battle or their might be too many odds stacked against them and she might fail. But the reader wants to see the confrontation and they don’t want to feel like you’ve fixed it

3.) Satisfying story endings use elements from the story’s beginning and middle

-your ending can’t come out of the blue and surprise the reader and even a twist ending shouldn’t come entirely out of the blue.

-the best twist comes when the reader ends up seeing the story beginning and middle in a different light. This comes when the reader realizes that the seeds were planted all through out the story even if the reader didn’t recognize them at the time

-if you figure out how to end your story, make sure to go back and plant hints to your ending

4.) Great story endings make the reader feel something

-if you bring your characters and conflict to life, readers will care how everything works out and will feel something when your character succeeds or fails.

**Tips and Tricks:**

* **When to End:** Your ending should probably come when the protagonist has either reached or failed to reach the goal that they had in the beginning or when the main conflict has resolved. The conflict is the reason why people are reading your story. You need to resolve it in some fashion.
* **Making a Mess:** In a short story you probably won’t have time to wrap up all the problems that have cropped up over your story. It’s okay to leave a few threads untied.
* **Character Made:** Your protagonist needs to have a guiding hand in how the story ends. They can’t get off easy thanks to fate or chance. They must play a role in the ending.
* **Tailor Made:** Gear your story to the ending. Decide what the ending will be and then fill in details along the way that will lead you to the ending of the story.
* **Clear Conflict:** Make sure your conflict is clear because this will affect the ending of the story.
* **Show Not Tell:** You don’t have to explicitly state the ending. And they all lived happily ever after is tired and boring. Show us the happy ending. Don’t tell us it ended happily.
* **Drop Hints:** Leave little clues throughout your story that build up to the ending. Don’t explicitly state how it will end until it ends but you can use foreshadowing to hint to your reader. When the reader goes back and re-reads they will pick up on all the hints they missed beforehand and it will all fall into place.
* **Don’t Force It:** Your story doesn’t have to end happily. It just has to end. However, whatever way you decide to end it, it should match the story and the feel you have given it. Don’t force a happy ending just because you want the characters to be happy. Sometimes it’s okay for them to be unhappy.
* **Edit!**: Once your story is finished, go back through it and fill in details that were missed but that are important to the build up of your conclusion.
* **Keep it Straight:** Keep in mind the genre you’re writing in and make sure the ending of your story is appropriate for the genre being written. A horror story will have a different style of ending than a piece of historical fiction.
* **Last Impressions:** Keep in mind that the ending is the reader’s final impression of what they have read. Do your story justice and give it an appropriate ending. Otherwise your readers will be left with a sour taste in their mouth.
* **Emotions:** Make your reader feel something with your ending. If you have brought your story properly to life it will have an impact. Make sure your ending has the same kind of punch.

Other Tips:

* identify what your ending will be. At what point of the story will nothing happen after
* consider when is the best time for a story to finish
* ask what the main conflict is in your story and create a list of different ways the conflict could be solved
* get someone to read the ending who is someone you trust and who can be honest about your work. If they say it doesn’t work, go back to rework it
* make sure to fill in all the holes