**Endings**

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.”

**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 before hand 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.