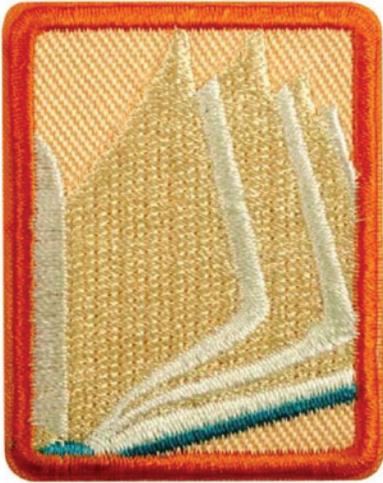# Seniors
## We have a challenge for you!

# Novelist Challenge

Let's crack open your favorite book! Why is it your favorite? Do you like the plot, characters, or the genre? Be a novelist yourself, and learn from the writers you enjoy reading.

Deconstruct a novel, create great characters, develop a plot, write and edit 20 pages. Share your story with us at gsnnj.

**Supplies:**
- Favorite book(s)
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Characters are the heart of a great novel. Build your story concept, figure out what you want to happen to your characters and see where it takes you.

Use your second favorite novel for inspiration and create profiles for three characters.

Create the plot sequence of events. The plot draws the reader into the characters' lives and moves the story along.

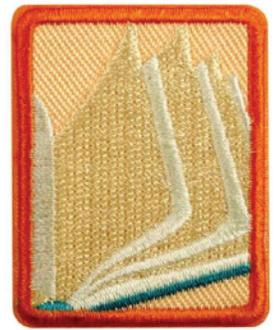Write, edit, and share with two people the last 20 pages of your first draft.

**Be a novelist**

1. Deconstruct a novel

2. Create great characters

3. Develop a plot

4. Write at least 20 pages

5. Edit your pages

6. Share @gsnnj

# Novelist Challenge Explained

## Teen Novelists

These writers prove that it's the quality of the writing—and not the writer's age—that matters most.

**MARY SHELLEY** wrote the classic *Frankenstein* at the age of 18. Published in 1818, the novel told the story of a monster built by a medical student named Victor Frankenstein.

**S.E. HINTON** was 15 when she started writing her groundbreaking novel *The Outsiders*, about 14-year-old Ponyboy and his friends. It was published in 1967.

**CATHERINE BANNER** began writing *The Eyes of a King* at age 14. The fantasy novel, published in 2009, tells the story of two 15-year-old boys who are connected through parallel worlds.

**HELEN OYEYMI** wrote *The Icarus Girl* when she was 18. The novel, published in 2005, is about eight-year-old Jessamy Harrison and her friend TillyTilly.

## Character Profile

It helps to physically describe a character. But a great character is about more than hair color. What does she want more than anything in the world—and what's stopping her from getting it?

- What makes her sad?
- What makes her angry?
- Who does she love most?
- What makes her happy?
- Does she go to school? What grade is she in?
- Does she have a job? What does she do?
- Is she a mother? A sister? A grandmother?
- Who does she dislike most?
- What is her secret ambition?
- What is she most proud of?
- What is her best childhood memory?
- What is she most ashamed of?
- What is her worst childhood memory?
- What are her hobbies?
- Does she have a plan for the future?

*When you are writing a story or description, do not make all your characters say what you would say, feel what you would feel, live in the same place you would live. Make them talk and feel and live in their own way.*

—*Girl Scout Handbook*, 1940