

Rescuing Your Plot –NaNoWriMo

1. Kill a main character.
2. Send your characters on a journey.
3. Have your characters lose an important item.
4. Have a character go crazy.
5. A volcano erupts nearby.
6. Your characters stumble on a party.
7. Your characters throw a party.
8. Your character gets drunk.
9. Your character gets drunk and blabs a secret.
10. Switch to the villain's point of view.
11. Add a love interest.
12. Add a new character.
13. Your main character trips and breaks his/her arm.
14. Characters argue over grammar.
15. Have a character exclaim, "There is no spoon!"
16. Write a scene that takes place in a bowling alley.
17. Have a character who wears glasses break them.
18. Reference yourself participating in NaNoWriMo.
19. Kill a mime.
20. Use a trilobite in your novel.
21. Send in the ninjas!
22. Add a one-night stand.
23. Get your characters lost in the forest.
24. Your main character's mother dies.
25. Two characters kiss.
26. One character walks in on two others having sex.
27. A supporting character has a heart attack and dies.
28. Your main character loses money at poker.
29. Everyone gets food poisoning.
30. Everyone gets the plague.
31. Include a character who obsessively collects random objects.
32. A character's long-lost sibling turns up.
33. A male character finds out he is the father of a teenager who shows up.
34. A CIA agent tries to kill a character.
35. The characters find a suitcase full of money.
36. Have a character find a dead body in the trunk of his/her car.
37. Include the phrase: "I saw this in a porn movie once."
38. Go grab a random album and use song titles as chapter titles.
39. Include any of the games you may see on an episode of "Whose Line is it Anyway?"
40. Have a character willfully remove his/her own limb.
41. Include a brawl in a non-contact sport, e.g. tennis, croquet, cricket, ice-skating, etc.
42. Include a llama in some way.
43. Include a terrible accident involving a rubber chicken.
44. Have the villain and hero be ex's — boy/girlfriend, fiancé(e)s, spouses, anything.
45. Write an entire chapter in which two characters do nothing but pare potatoes.
46. Have a character literally die of too much homework.
47. Include a soapbox moment on a subject you feel strongly about that has absolutely nothing to do with the plot.
48. Have a scene where a character suffers from a mishap with a bendy straw.
49. A herd of 100 bison stampede through your novel.
50. Your characters are surrounded by a cloud of butterflies.

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51. A walk-on gets hit by a speeding bus, gets up, dusts themselves off, and walks away.
52. Hit shuffle on your music player of choice and base the chapter on the first song title that comes up.
53. Have your characters play "Duck, Duck, Goose."
54. Have your characters intercept a secret message.
55. Go to the NaNo "Characters and Plot Realism" forum, and include an element from the post at the top.
56. Open the nearest book at random, point to a line, and use that as a basis for the next scene.
57. Open the Bible, point to a verse, and have one of your characters quote it.
58. Have a bank robbery interrupted by a second bank robbery in the same bank.
59. Have your characters play "I Have Never" or some other drinking game.
60. Have your characters play a game of "the dozens" — "Yo mama so fat..."
61. Have your villain and main character run into each other by accident, in public, and have to be nice to each other.
62. One of your characters has an odd but all-consuming phobia.
63. Include a polar bear somewhere that a polar bear absolutely would not be.
64. Your character opens a book at the library and finds a message asking for help.
65. Your character opens a fortune cookie and finds a message asking for help.
66. A hurricane hits your setting. It is named the same thing as one of your characters, who complains.
67. One of your characters gets pregnant.
68. Have a character say too much while talking in his sleep.
69. Have one of your characters get arrested for a crime that happened long ago, unrelated to your plot.
70. Have your characters accidentally enter an establishment they wouldn't usually (gay bar, biker bar, rodeo event).
71. Have a character receive a box in the mail full of stuff from random people they don't know.
72. Have a tough, macho character receive an ugly present from his mother.
73. Your characters are trapped by a freak storm inappropriate for the season.
74. Your main character trips, falls, and is unconscious all day. The other characters talk about him behind his back.
75. Your villain falls in love with a secondary character.
76. A foreigner shows up and tries to tell your characters something important, but doesn't speak their language.
77. Your characters have for breakfast whatever you ate most recently.
78. Your characters are kept awake all night by loud noises. They get giggly and share secrets.
79. A cute little kid shows up and latches on to your MC. You have to get rid of the kid without killing him/her.
80. Have a villain character shows up who shares the name of one of your main characters. They both get mad.
81. One of your characters bets another to do some unusual, difficult feat.
82. Whatever happened in your last chapter sparks a flashback to a similar event in your MC's childhood.
83. A spaceship crash-lands right in front of your characters. At least they think it's a spaceship. It might be a hoax.
84. Your characters' path is blocked by a construction crew. They have to go another direction.
85. One of your characters goes into a fugue state and disappears.
86. Have a sale at your main character's favorite store. The objects he buys will cause him bad luck.
87. Include your favorite teacher from childhood as a minor character.
88. Include your least favorite teacher from childhood as a minor character.
89. Your characters accidentally start a fire while playing with candles.
90. A walk-on character shows up again and reveals a crucial secret.
91. Your main character dreams about one of your other characters.
92. Have your characters find a mysterious, ancient coin.
93. A storm forces your characters to take shelter someplace creepy.
94. Two characters who hate each other are forced to share a cramped space (car, hotel room, elevator).
95. Your main character inadvertently offends a minor character by forgetting his/her name.
96. The last inanimate object you mentioned suddenly breaks.
97. The character who most recently spoke comes down with laryngitis and can't talk for the next chapter.
98. A beetle flies into a character's hair and everybody freaks out.
99. A character accidentally swallows a bug. "Extra protein," another character comments.
100. Your main character decides to write a novel someday.