



World Building in a Binder

For writers who prefer paper over Pinterest

My Binder System

- **Series Bible**
- **Current Project Binder**
 - If part of the series, update and add relevant content to the
Series Binder when project is complete
- **Press, Reviews, Promotions**
- **Idea File**
- **Craft & Classes**

Building Your World

- **Identify the type of world you are building**
 - Real Worlds
 - Present-day/contemporary
 - Historical
 - Imaginary Worlds
 - Fantasy
 - Paranormal
 - Alternate reality
 - Fantasy
 - Science Fiction

► Know the Rules

- Real Worlds
 - History
 - Calendar
 - Weather/Tides/Sunrise/Sunset
 - Places
- Imaginary Worlds
 - Impact of past, present, and future events
 - Expectations and limitations of magic, creatures, plant life, special powers, etc

► Read similar works

Your World Needs

The Places

- General description of the world and its people
- Setting elements

- Maps
- Places of interest
- Interior layouts
- Historical period
- Culture
- Season/Time

The People

► Character/cast

- Full bios of main characters

www.etsy.com/shop/SwanPressPrintables

- Physical description
- Personality traits
- Accents
- Morals/values/religion/politics
- Internal struggles and motivation
- Goals, dreams, and fears
- Sacrifices and grand gestures
- Growth from the start of the story to the “new normal”

- Short synopses of secondary and tertiary characters
 - Physical description
 - Relationship to the main character(s)
 - Purpose in the story (help or hinder)
- Relevant backstories

The History

► **Timelines**

- From the inception of the world to the present
- Major events
- Genealogy and family trees
- Birth and death dates (if applicable) of all characters
- Major and minor characters – know where they are at all times (at work, away at college, on vacation, on a quest, etc.)
- Calendar
- Plot points and events
- Be cognizant of holidays
- If writing contemporary, use an actual calendar (readers look this stuff up!)

Research

► **Things you need to create**

- My books: Fictional towns, a sportsplex, a cliffside resort, cabins, riding trails

► **Things you need to become an expert in**

- My books: PTSD, military rankings and operations, Downeast, Maine, Queen Anne architecture, Savannah, southern cooking, traumatic brain injuries, horses, harbor seals

► **Things that inspire you**

- Me: Love, God, faith, kindness, people who overcome hard things, New England through the seasons, cozy getaways

► **Things about your characters**

- My books: Motivation, faith, emotions, character traits, family, outlook, work ethics, effect of childhood traumas, world/regional events during 2017

Stay in Touch!

- [Facebook.com/KerryEvelynAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/KerryEvelynAuthor)
- [@theKerryEvelyn](https://twitter.com/theKerryEvelyn)
- [@KerryEvelynAuthor](https://www.instagram.com/KerryEvelynAuthor)
- Reader Group [Facebook.com/groups/CranesCoveCrew](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CranesCoveCrew)
- Sign up for my newsletter at KerryEvelyn.com
- Follow me on my Amazon Author Page

Notes:

Suggested Binder Tabs for World Building

Tabs and topics should reflect your world. The more developed your world is, the more realistic it will seem to the reader.

- World description**
- Maps**
- Timeline**
- Calendar**
- Work schedules**
- Places**
- Cast**
- Bios**
- Special Objects**
- Food/recipes**
- Songs/verses**
- Photos & cover ideas**
- Languages**
- Story bits**
- Books in the series**
- Outlines/Plot Points**
- Style sheets**
- Input from Beta Readers**
- Research topics**

- _____
- _____
- _____

