

Name _____ **Cliffhanger**



How to Write a Cliffhanger

A cliffhanger is a storytelling technique that means leaving characters in a difficult and unresolved situation at the end of a story, chapter, or episode.

There are generally two types of cliffhangers. In the first type, the main character is left in a dangerous or possibly life-threatening situation. In the second type, shocking information is revealed which may change the course of the story.

The technique is essentially to stop the action in the middle of a scene at the most exciting point, and instead of letting the scene resolve at the end of the section or chapter, move the resolution to the beginning of the following section or chapter. Using the cliffhanger technique keeps your reader turning the pages!

DIRECTIONS: Review your draft story or novel. Pay close attention to your section and chapter breaks. Do your sections and/or chapters end with all of your scenes resolved? Are there any scenes at the ends of your sections or chapters that could end with a cliffhanger and be resolved in the next section or chapter?