

Outlining Your Idea

Songwriter's Six Best Friends & The Story Grid Diorama Model

- ① Who talks to Whom?
- ② What happens?
- ③ When does it happen?
- ④ Where does it happen?
- ⑤ Why and How does it happen?
- ⑥ Context, Content, and Conflict



Notes:

Work- and Cheatsheet

EPISODE 025: A Songwriter's Six Best Friends - ADVANCED: The Story Grid Diorama Model

Whenever you start exploring an idea, you have to answer some essential questions to get a clear picture of what kind of scenario you want to communicate to your listeners.

You should always answer those questions in your text to give your audience the context and the content of what's going on.

Your Six Best Friends

- Who does something? Who acts?
- What happens?
- When does it happen?
- Where does it happen?
- Why does it happen?
- How does it happen?

In order to create the best setting for your lyric idea, follow those steps to create your imaginary diorama model:

NOTES:

First, you paint the diorama to create the setting. Describe the world and set the mood for what's to come.

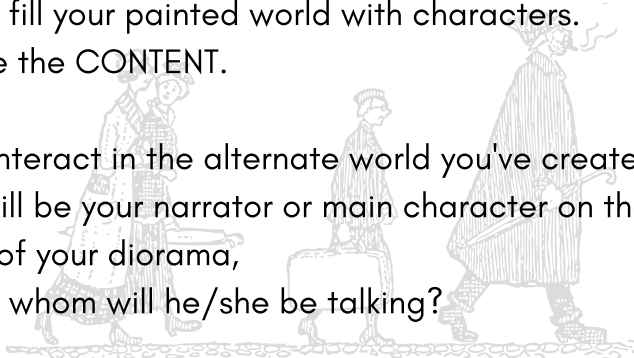
You create the **CONTEXT** - visually answering the questions **WHEN** and **WHERE** your song's narrative takes place.



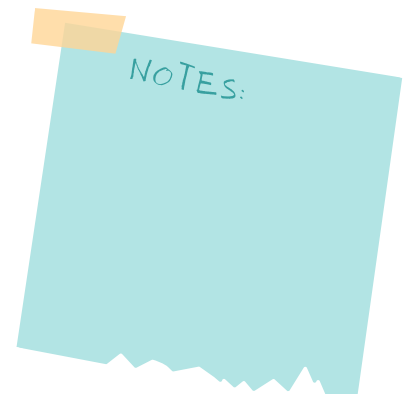
Secondly, fill your painted world with characters. You create the **CONTENT**.

WHO will interact in the alternate world you've created?

- Who will be your narrator or main character on the stage of your diorama,
- and to whom will he/she be talking?



NOTES:



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Thirdly, you need to engage your avatars in interactions such that you can hold the attention of the audience.

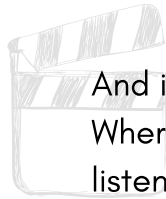
That means, first you must excite your audience through the actions of your avatars so that they can see WHAT is happening.

Then intrigue the audience by raising a question in their minds. That question can also be named: WHY? Why are you showing this particular interaction or conflict? WHY are the characters doing that?

Story Grid Diorama Model

Three essential pieces are necessary for planning the outline of your idea:
Context, Content, and
Conflict/interactions.

NOTES:



And if you answer all the questions of Who, When, Where, What, and Why, you will enlighten your listeners with a signal truth that you - as the artist - intends to move from your mind to the audience's by the song's end. And thus, answering the question of HOW it all fits together.

In short, here's how it works:

1. First, you paint the diorama to create the setting. Your friends WHEN and WHERE will come to help you.
2. Then you fill that stage with life. So WHO will be interacting with WHOM?
3. And lastly, you think about the interactions that will take place. WHAT is happening? What can we literally watch as the characters interact with each other? What is going on? And we are curious to find out WHY that interaction is happening. And when we get all those questions answered, we'll see HOW it all fits together.

Work- and Cheatsheet

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Outline your Idea

WHO

To WHOM is the Singer talking to or referring: _____

Point of View:

Direct Address
(I + You)

Second Person
(You + He/She)

First Person
(I + He/She)

Third Person
(He/She)

WHERE

WHEN

WHAT

What are the characters literally doing? _____

WHY

HOW
