Ylanne Sorrows http://www.sorrows.weebly.com

Planning the Book

Below is a table with many aspects of a book and examples of how to brainstorm ideas or outline definitive ones using the column to the right. Not every aspect will be applicable for every project, particularly experimental fiction and certain genres of non-fiction.

Aspect	Fiction	Nonfiction	Your Project
Purpose Scope	To serve as an allegory, to entertain, to warn, to share an emotional anecdote, to satisfy yourself, etc. A nation's tale, or an individual's	To inform, to educate, to persuade, to entertain, to discover, to share an interesting anecdote, to satisfy yourself, etc. Broad, narrow general, detailed,	
Timeframe	story? Etc. 24 Hours, 100 years,	etc. 24 Hours, 100 years,	
Timetranic	a million years, five years, etc.	a million years, five years, etc.	
Tense	Past, present, future	Past, present, future	
Narration	Voice? Narrator? Main character Focal character Method	Voice? Narrator? Main character Focal character Method	
Main Characters	Major characters. List by either role in-story or out-of- story and/or name. IS: King, detective, etc. OOS: Narrator, Villain, Romantic interest, etc.	Major persons. List by name and/or one or two word explanation: i.e. Caesar, Roman emperor; Jesus Christ; George Bush, President 2000-2008, etc.	
Minor Characters	Minor characters. List by either Role in-story or Out of story And/or name	Minor persons. List by name and major person with whom they are affiliated.	
Time Period	Realistic. Futuristic. 60s. Year 3500 AD. Jesus' time, etc.	Realistic. Futuristic. 60s. Year 3500 AD. Jesus' time, etc.	

Location	List location(s):	List location(s):	
Location	i.e. King's palace;	i.e. King's palace;	
	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia;	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia;	
	America; Joe's	America; Joe's	
	basement, etc.	basement, etc.	
Style	Prose, series of	Prose, series of	
•	poems, series of	poems, series of	
	letters/diary	letters/diary	
	entries/reports/etc,	entries/reports/etc,	
	Long/short chapters,	Long/short chapters,	
	segments, etc.	segments, etc.	
T	Witty, ironic,	Witty, ironic,	
Tone	= 1	sorrowful, dark,	
	sorrowful, dark,		
	light, contrite,	light, contrite,	
	indignant, etc.	indignant, etc.	
Prefatory(ies)?	Prologue? What is in	Prologue? What is in	
1 1010013 (103)	the prologue? Letters	the prologue? Letters	
	of endorsement?	of endorsement?	
	Preface?	Preface?	
	Introduction?	Introduction?	
	Acknowledgements?	Acknowledgements?	
	Notes? Quotes? Etc.	Notes? Quotes? Etc.	
Opening	Prefatory? Letter?	Prefatory? Letter?	
	Flashback? Vision of	Flashback? Vision of	
	future? Poem? Prose	future? Poem? Prose	
	piece? Song?	piece? Song?	
	Introduction of a	Introduction of a	
	character? Event?	character? Event?	
	Method? Etc.	Method? Etc.	
Ingiting Ingident?	What draws in the	What draws in the	
Inciting Incident?	Reader? Event?	Reader? Get their	
	Feeling? Action?	attention.	
	_	accention.	
	Etc.	Company to the company of the last company of	
Major	Internal and	Same, but possibly on	
Conflict(s)?	external: i.e.	a larger scale, or	
Connect(s).	Dad/teenage daughter;	addressed to the	
	want to forgive but	reader or author	
	still angry; impudent	directly.	
	boss; totalitarian		
	government; divorced		
	spouses; etc.		
Source or	One or another	One or another	
	character, word,	character, word,	
Method of	item, divine act or	item, divine act or	
Resolution(s)?	revelation, action,	revelation, action,	
Resolution(s).			
	etc.	etc.	
C 1 . 2	Whore or how do	Who no on how do	
Conclusion?	Where or how do you	Where or how do you	
	want to conclude?	want to conclude?	
	With a feeling,	With a feeling,	
	event/accomplishment,	event/accomplishment,	
	resolution of	resolution of	
	conflict, etc.?	conflict, etc.?	
Future plans?	Publication? Private	Publication? Private	
ruture plans:	work? Experimental?	work? Experimental?	