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PITCH A STORY FOR ANOTHER WRITER

This is designed as an exercise for writers who are working on novels or screenplays. However, it could be adapted to practice story pitches using published novels as the source material.

Pitching a novel idea in just a few lines is difficult for most writers. They know too much about the story so it is hard to describe the concept in just a few lines.

In this exercise writers split into pairs and describe their book to a partner. The partner should ask questions to get a good understanding of the story and take notes as needed. Then the writers switch roles, with the second writer learning the details of his or her partner's story.

Then there is a time for quiet writing, as each writer prepares a short pitch describing the other's work. The writers share each other's pitches with their partner. It is often interesting to hear another writer's idea of a project.