Emotional Intimacy in Fiction Cindi Myers

Handout.

**What is Emotional Intimacy?**

**Why should you even be concerned about emotional intimacy between characters?**

1. *Moments of emotional intimacy between characters allow readers to connect with characters.*
2. *Show another side of a character.*
3. *Heighten the conflict of the story.*

**How to create emotional intimacy between your characters.**

1. *Your characters share a common background, or an experience.*
2. *They have a common enemy or foe.*
3. *think about the pacing in your story.*
4. *You show people becoming more intimate through their awareness of each other.*
5. *Knowing things about each other, whether things you have observed, or a secret you know about them, is one sign of emotional intimacy*
6. *Show intimacy through dialogue, particularly revealing conversations.*
7. *Consider giving your characters a moment when they have to trust each other and do.*
8. *Or, show your character making A decision in favor of another person.*
9. *Show emotional intimacy by giving your characters a moment of vulnerability*
10. *Your character’s closeness to another character could be revealed by something they don’t do.*
11. *The push-pull of conflicting emotions can be a powerful emotional connection between characters.*
12. *A shared point of view is another way characters build emotional intimacy.*

**Ways to create emotional intimacy with your readers:**

1. *The reader identifies with the character in some way.*
2. *Show, don’t tell*
3. *Vivid description makes your reader feel they are in the scene*
	1. *Utilize all the senses.*
	2. *Use specific detail.*
	3. *Use imagery.*
4. *to focus on universal emotions*

**How does emotional intimacy strengthen your story?**

1. *Emotional intimacy between characters increases conflict.*
2. *Emotional intimacy adds complications to your plot that make for a more interesting story.*
3. *Emotional intimacy pulls your reader deeper into the story.*

*You can learn more about Cindi Myers and her books at* [*www.CindiMyers.com*](http://www.CindiMyers.com) *and* [*https://www.facebook.com/authorcindimyers*](https://www.facebook.com/authorcindimyers)