Pre-Production Planning Document (PODCAST)

GENERAL INFO

1. **Your Name: Riley Moger**
2. **PROJECT:** Podcast

CREATIVE BRIEF

1. What must it be (i.e. format, like audio-only podcast, video, etc.)

An audio-only human podcast with my narration, music, ambient audio, and sound effects.

2. Who is it for? (**Note:** this should **not** simply be "for the professor" or "my classmates". What real world audience would find this piece appealing? Think about age, location, education level, life position, interests, etc. For example, a piece on retro video games might appeal to those who grew up in the 1980's in the US. A piece on a local library might appeal to seniors living nearby, etc.)

Young adult readers, especially romance readers and Boys of Tommen fans, who feel attached to fictional characters and enjoy returning to familiar stories. It may also be for people in a reading slump who are considering revisiting a favorite book.

3. How long must it be?

2-10 minutes.

4. What is your objective with the piece?

I want to explore why returning to a favorite book can feel comforting, even when the story itself is emotional. Through my connection to the Boys of Tommen series, I want listeners to think about the characters and stories they keep coming back to and why those connections matter to them.

5. When is it due?

Sunday, November 1st (by midnight).

6. What is the overall idea?

"Back to the Same Pages" (name is in progress) is a personal podcast about why we reread books when we already know what happens. Using Boys of Tommen as my main example, I will discuss feeling attached to characters, revisiting favorite moments, and finding new meaning in a familiar story.

7. What is the storyline summary?

I will begin by asking why we choose to reread a book when we already know the ending. Then, I will explore my connection to the Boys of Tommen characters and what makes their stories worth returning to, without giving away major spoilers. I will finish by reflecting on how knowing what happens does not take away the feeling, and how a familiar book can mean something different each time we read it.

8. Elevator pitch:

Why pick up the same book again when there are so many unread ones waiting? My podcast explores the pull of familiar characters through my connection to Boys of Tommen and asks what keeps us returning to stories we already know.

9. Tagline:

The ending hasn't changed, but maybe we have.

10. Look and feel description:

Although this is an audio-only piece, I want it to feel like a cozy conversation about books with a friend. The tone will be personal, nostalgic, and reflective. Soft instrumental piano, quiet room ambience, and occasional page-turning sounds will create the feeling of settling into a familiar reading space.

MIND MAP



QUESTIONS / NOTES

HOOK:

1. What will grab the attention of the audience within the first few seconds?

- The sound of a book opening and pages turning, followed by a question that readers can relate to

2. Hook ideas:

- "I already know how this story ends. I know which parts will hurt, which moments I'll look forward to, and which characters I won't want to leave behind. So why am I opening it again?"
- Maybe a question like "why return to a story when you already know what happens?"

MESSAGE/STORY:

1. What message are you trying to deliver to the audience?

Rereading a book can be meaningful even when you already know what happens. Returning to familiar characters can feel comforting, and you might notice something different because of where you are in your own life.

2. Clearly describe the following parts of your story:
    a. **Beginning:** Open with the sound of pages turning and a question about why we reread. Introduce "Back to the Same Pages" and Boys of Tommen as my personal example.
    b. **Middle:** Explore what makes me feel attached to the characters and their relationships. Discuss how an emotional story can still feel familiar and comforting, and how knowing the ending changes what I pay attention to. Keep the discussion focused on my experience rather than summarizing the plots.
    c. **End:** Return to the opening question of "why read it again?" Reflect on how the story stays the same, but our experience of it can change. Invite listeners to think about which book they would return to, then close with the tagline: "The ending hasn't changed, but maybe we have."

NARRATION/HOST:

1. Who will lead us through the piece?

I will be the host and narrator

2. Narration ideas:
    - Talk like I am sharing a favorite series with a friend
    - Keep my tone warm, conversational, and reflective
    - Show more excitement when discussing my connection to the characters
    - Use a script to stay focused while keeping the wording natural
    - Pause after questions and personal reflections to give listeners time to think

MUSIC:

1. What is overall "mood" and "feel" of the piece?

Warm, nostalgic, and reflective, like settling into a comfortable spot with a favorite book

2. Music track ideas:

- A gentle instrumental piano track with no lyrics
- A simple melody that feels comforting without becoming overly dramatic
- Fade the music in after the opening question to introduce the podcast
- Lower the music beneath my voice so the narration stays clear
- Bring the same melody back at the ending to create a feeling of returning somewhere familiar
- Choose a track licensed for podcast use and include any required credit

AMBIENT AUDIO:

1. What is the "location" of the piece? If we close our eyes, where should we imagine that we are?

A quiet, cozy room at home, settling into a comfortable spot to read a favorite book.

2. Ambient audio ideas:

- Keep the ambience subtle beneath my narration to create a consistent indoor setting
- Use the room tone to fill pauses and smooth transitions between recordings
- Avoid distracting sounds like notifications, television, or loud appliances

SOUND EFFECTS:

1. What sound effects (SFX) would help tell this story? Why?

Book sounds will help listeners imagine picking up a familiar story and create a connection between the opening and ending

2. SFX ideas:

- Opening a book before the first line to establish the reading theme
- Slowly turning a page after the opening question
- Briefly flipping through pages when discussing revisiting favorite moments
- Closing the book after the final reflection to signal the end
- Record each effect separately so I can adjust its placement and volume without covering my narration

(OPTIONAL) INTERVIEWS:

1. Who will you interview?
2. Why is this person important to the piece?
3. What questions will you ask?
4. What followup questions might be important?

No interviews

SCRIPT

Name: Riley Moger
Title: Back To The Same Pages

VIDEO	**AUDIO**

(NO VISUALS FOR AUDIO PROJECT)	[Fade in quiet indoor room tone. SFX: Open a book and slowly turn a page.] [Warm, thoughtful delivery.] I already know how this story ends. I know which parts will hurt, which moments I'll look forward to, and which characters I won't want to leave behind. So why am I opening it again? [Fade in soft instrumental piano] I'm Riley, and this is Back to the Same Pages. A reflection on the stories we keep coming back to. [Lower music beneath narration.] If you're a reader like me, you probably know how long your list of unread books can get. There is always another recommendation, another release, or another book sitting on your shelf waiting for you to finally pick it up. And yet, sometimes the book you want is one you've already read. For me, the Boys of Tommen series brings up that feeling. When I think about those books, I think about the characters, Johnny and Shannon, Joey and Aoife, Gerard and Claire, or Hughie and Lizzie, and their relationships. The plot matters, but so does getting to spend time with people whose stories I have become invested in. Which sounds a little dramatic when you remember that these people are fictional. But when you spend that much time reading about someone, you start to care about the little things. How they interact with their friends. What they struggle to say. The moments when someone understands them without needing an explanation.

	Eventually, finishing the book means leaving all of that behind, too. [SFX: A few pages gently flipping.] That is what makes the idea of your return so appealing. You don't have to start from the beginning with a completely unfamiliar cast of characters. You already have a connection. And with Boys of Tommen, familiar does not necessarily mean lighthearted. These stories can be emotional. So when I talk about comfort, I don't mean that everything happening on the page is comforting. Sometimes, the comfort is in knowing the world you're stepping into. You know that you care about these characters. You know the story has already meant something to you. [Let music fade out. Keep subtle room tone.] There is also something interesting about reading when you are no longer trying to figure out what happens next. The first time through a story, it can be easy to focus on the big questions. Will these people end up together? What is going to happen to this character? How is any of this going to work out? Once you know those answers, there is room to pay attention to other things. A small interaction might stand out more. You might notice how a relationship develops before the characters fully understand it themselves. A moment that seemed ordinary could feel completely different because you know what comes afterward.

	Knowing the ending changes the experience, but it doesn't automatically make it less meaningful. I think about how we listen to music. Nobody expects us to hear a favorite song once and then move on forever. We replay it because we want to feel something again. Books take more time, obviously. But I don't think the desire to return is that different. Sometimes I want something new. Other times, I want the feeling of recognizing a character, anticipating a favorite moment, or remembering why I cared so much in the first place. [Soft piano returns beneath narration] There can be pressure to keep moving through new books, especially when there are so many recommendations around you. It is easy to turn reading into a list of things to finish. But if I am choosing a book for enjoyment, returning to one I love still counts as spending my time doing something I enjoy. It doesn't need to be a new title to be worth picking up. And maybe the question isn't always, "What will happen in this story?" Sometimes it's, "What will I notice this time?" {SFX: One page turning.] So, think about a book you would return to. What comes to mind first? A plot twist? A relationship? A character you still think about after finishing?

	For me, that connection is what makes the same pages worth opening again. This has been Back to the Same Pages. The ending hasn't changed, but maybe we have. [SFX: Gently close the book. Bring piano up briefly, then fade music and room tone out.]

CREATE A PDF

When you are done creating this document, you should create a universal PDF document that can be easily posted to your blog or emailed (it's not safe to assume everyone has Microsoft Word, and the files can be very large).

To do this on a Mac, click File>Print and then click the option for PDF in the lower left, followed by "Save to PDF". Contact me if you need help on a PC.