

NECRWA 2019 – Worldbuilding without Monsters or Magic  
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- I. Introduction
  - a. What is Worldbuilding?
    - i. Includes physical setting, social customs, culture
  - b. Why no magic in this discussion?
  - c. Comprehensive bible vs. Focused Approach
    - i. Character Lens
    - ii. Hyperworlds
    - iii. Microcultures
- II. Character Lens
  - a. Most important element because no one cares about your worldbuilding – without the perspective of compelling characters
  - b. Four Lenses:
    - i. Native
    - ii. Transplant
    - iii. Stranger
    - iv. Returning
- III. Hyperworld
  - a. Exaggerate a few distinctive features
  - b. Takes reality and elevates it
  - c. Examples
- IV. Microculture
  - a. Layers/levels of culture
  - b. The intimate circle that is closest to the protagonist
  - c. Examples

**References:**

- Patricia Wrede’s Fantasy Worldbuilding Questions
- Donald Maas The Fire in Fiction

## YOUR TURN!

1. Briefly describe your setting
2. What lens (lenses) do your hero and heroine provide to your world?
3. **HYPERWORLD:** What are three distinctive features that you can focus on with your setting? (No magic!!) Why did you pick those features? What are you trying to highlight with those characteristics?
4. **MICRO-CULTURE:** What are some customs and interactions that define the hero/heroine's daily life or most intimate circle?