**Week 4 Worksheet – Readers’ Expectations**

**Instructions:** The best way to learn about writing conventions is to see them in action. For this week’s worksheet, grab one work of fiction and one work of nonfiction off your TBR pile (“to be read” pile). Fill in the blanks for both books.

**Fiction**

* Title:
* Genre (i.e., murder mystery, sci fi, romance, etc.):
* Read the first 5 pages of the novel. What is the “inciting incident” (i.e., the thing that sets the status quo world off balance)?
* How does the opening scene “turn”? What happens?

**Nonfiction**

* Title:
* Genre (i.e., memoir, how-to, history, etc.):
* Look at the Table of Contents and answer the following:
* **Is the book divided into Parts? How many?**
* **Is there an obvious way of dividing the parts (an organizing principle)?**
For example, the book *Atomic Habits* has 6 Parts: 4 “Laws” bracketed by “Fundamentals” and “Advanced Tactics.”
* **How do the Parts relate to the subtitle of the book?**
For example, *Atomic Habits* promises to deliver “An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones” and the Parts show the reader how to build better habits in 4 simple steps (the Laws). The chapters flesh out what those Laws are.
* Choose any chapter and read the first page. Does the author start with a story? What is it (in 1-2 sentences)? Does the author use signposting for the openings and closings of chapters? What does it look like?
* Look at the last page of this chapter. Does the writer finish that story or mention it in some way? If not, examine how they end their chapter. Describe it.
* Flip through your book. What other elements does the author use to help the reader digest the material (I’m thinking of things like bullet points, summaries, diagrams, tables, etc.)?