

dungeonpunk

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This is a fiction-telling game about exploring a fantasy world and going on adventures.

To play, tell a story between yourselves, with one player (the game master, or GM) describing the world and what happens within it while the other players each describe a character in that world and their actions within it. As you play, go back and forth in this pattern—the GM describing situations, the players describing their characters' actions, and the GM describing reactions—and see how the story unfolds.

As you play, pay attention to any **moves** that are in play (e.g., all **basic moves**, and any **special moves** that players choose for their characters). Follow their instructions when relevant.

When a player wants their character to avoid an event or outcome the GM has described, go back to just before it happened and use the **Struggle** move.

If any content occurs in the story that players can't or don't want to engage with, rewind, erase it, and change direction, or fade to black and fast-forward past it. Respect the needs of everyone at the table and work together to tell a story you can all enjoy.

To get started, work out a basic setting and a first adventure to set out on, make some characters, and start telling a story!

CREATING A CHARACTER

Each character has six **stats**: Strength (STR), Dexterity (DEX), Constitution (CON), Intelligence (INT), Charisma (CHA), and Wisdom (WIS). To begin with, distribute **5 points** between them, with none higher than 3.

Some moves also use FATE (which is always 1) and NONE (which is always 0).

Each character also starts with:

- 2d6+CON Hit Points (HP),
- o Experience Points (XP), and o Stress
- three **special moves**.
- whatever gear they'd like from **Starting Gear**
- any clothes, prosthetics, or disability aids that they would always have on them
 two bonds, which can be to people,
- communities, objects, forces, gods, places, and so on.

ROLLING DICE

When a move says to roll a stat, roll a number of six-sided dice equal to that stat's value and take the highest result. If you would roll less than one die, instead roll two dice and take the lowest result.

- A result of 6 is a success.
- A result of 4 or 5 is a twist.
- A result of 3 or less is a **failure**.

If an ally **helps**, they gain 1 Stress and add 1 die to the roll.

If you **push yourself**, gain 2 Stress and add 1 die to the roll.

If you have any kind of fictional advantage which would aid you, add I die or remove I die if you have a disadvantage. When a player rolls a failure, they gain I XP and the GM makes a GM move.

BASIC MOVE: STRUGGLE

When you act in the face of potential misfortune, decide with the GM which stat you're using and roll that stat.

On a **success**: Choose one:

- Full success with a cost
- Partial success with no cost

On a twist: Choose one:

- Partial success with a cost
- Failure with no extra cost

On a failure:

Failure with a cost

(Sometimes both options would mean the same thing. When that's the case, do that thing.)

BASIC MOVE: CARRY

When you carry gear and Stress that exceeds 12 Weight, you become encumbered. While encumbered, you receive a -1 dice penalty to all rolls and cannot push yourself, assist others, or use any move that could make you gain Stress.

An item is 1 **Weight** if you can hold it with one hand. If it requires a full arm to carry, it's 2 Weight (and if it requires both full arms, it's 4 Weight). If it can be held inside a closed fist, then it's 0 Weight.

Stress is an abstract measure of your physical and mental exhaustion. It is something you carry, with a weight all of its own. Each Stress is I Weight.

BASIC MOVE: REST

When you take time to **rest and recover**, you lose 1 Stress and regain 1 HP for every 2 hours you spend doing so.

Basic Move: Damage

When you successfully hurt something or are hurt by something, subtract the listed HP from yourself or the target, as relevant:

- Minor damage: 1 (bumps, cuts, bruises)
- Standard damage: 1d6 (an attack with a weapon)
- Serious damage: 2d6 (incapacitation or maining)
- Deadly damage: 3d6 (death)
- Catastrophic damage: 4d6 (capable of destroying a house)

Basic Move: Impairment

When you receive a lasting impairment, mark the relevant stat. Until the impairment is resolved, you suffer a -1 dice penalty to all rolls using that stat.

BASIC MOVE: COLLAPSE

When you **reach** o **HP**, you fall unconscious.

Basic Move: Die

When your **HP goes below** o, Roll FATE. On a **success**: You fall unconscious. On a **twist**: The GM presents an opportunity to survive, but at a cost. On a **failure**: You die.

Basic Move: Grow

When you **rest and reflect** you may spend XP equal to your current number of special moves to get a new special move or spend XP to double the sum of your stats to increase a stat by 1.

STARTING GEAR

- Melee weapon
- Ranged weapon
- 3 Handfuls of ammo
- Piece of armor
- Shield
- Suit of armor
- Set of tools or utensils
- Poison kit (3 uses)
- **Book** (3 uses)

When you **first use a book**, declare what kind of book it is (spell book, map book, encyclopaedia, etc). When you **consult a book for information it might reasonably contain**, add +rD to a relevant roll.

- Adventuring pack (3 uses)
 When you reach into an adventuring pack for equipment, consume one of its uses and produce a piece of adventuring gear like a grappling hook, lantern, or a ten foot pole as needed.
- A musical instrument
- A bundle of healing herbs (3 uses)
- A pack of trail rations (3 uses)

Worn **armor** reduces physical damage taken by HP equal to its weight. If armor absorbs **all** incoming damage it should become dented, cracked, damaged, or destroyed.

PEASANT SPECIAL MOVES ☐ STONE SOUP When you have the resources and take the time to cook a meal, everyone who eats it can heal 1d6 damage. ☐ HALE AND HEARTY Gain 1d6 max HP. ☐ Companion You have a companion-human, animal, or otherwise. Choose a skill they have: Hunting Hauling Healing When they use their skill they either perform the task without complication, give you an extra 1 die on a roll, or Struggle themselves with 1 die. ☐ STALWART ALLY

Once per session, gain 1 XP when you put

yourself at risk or disadvantage to help an

ally.

☐ FIELD MEDIC FIGHTER SPECIAL MOVES When you use medical supplies and spend ☐ Warrior's Strike time tending to wounds, roll WIS. When you strike a foe with intent to On a success: You restore 1d6 HP. harm, roll STR. On a twist: You restore 1d6 HP and use up On a success: You deal damage. You can the medical supplies. also choose to deal another 1d6 damage by letting them deal damage to you. ☐ HEAVY WORDS On a twist: You deal damage and choose one: When you threaten or intimidate You or an ally end up in a tight spot someone, name your demands and state They deal damage to you what will happen if they're not met, then roll CHA. On a success: They will try to meet your \sqsupset Ranged Attack demands as best they can. When you attack a target at range with a On a twist: They will try to follow your missile weapon, roll DEX. demands as long as the threat is real and On a success: You deal damage. present. On a twist: Choose one: You consume a handful of ammo ☐ BRUTE FORCE You must move to a more dangerous position When you destroy an inanimate obstacle • Your damage is reduced by 1 level with sheer strength, roll STR. On a success: Choose two: You don't break anything else ☐ Assess You don't make too much noise When you size up a person or situation, You don't take a long time roll WIS. On a twist: Choose one. On a success: Ask two: • Are they telling the truth? ☐ Loaded for Bear What are they really feeling? What do they intend to do? Who or what is really in control here? • What is about to happen? weight towards encumbrance. On a twist: Ask one.

☐ MARTIAL TRAINING

one tier higher.

Choose a weapon type. When you wield a

weapon of that type, its damage counts as

Weapons you are wielding and armour you are wearing only contribute only half their

☐ VALOUR

Once per session, gain 1 XP when you slay a worthy foe.

ROGUE SPECIAL MOVES ☐ Infiltrator When you climb or squeeze into a ☐ Careful hard-to-reach place, roll DEX. When you attack someone who doesn't On a success: You reach your goal. know you're there, roll DEX. On a twist: You reach your goal and On a success: You deal damage and remain choose one: hidden. You are injured On a twist: You deal damage and choose You attract attention one: You can't get back the way you came You or an ally are put in a difficult position ☐ TRAP EXPERT You deal less damage When you set up or disarm a trap, roll DEX. Investigation On a **success**: Choose two:. When you investigate or assess your You can easily disarm what you set up surroundings, roll INT. You can reuse what you've disarmed On a **success**: Ask a question; the GM will You aren't injured in the process answer. They might first ask "How do you Nothing is consumed or destroyed know this?" and modify their answer On a twist: Choose one. based on your response. On a **twist**: Ask a question as above, but ☐ ANTIDOTE the GM's can only answer "Yes", "No", or "Unknown". When you use medical supplies to treat a poisoned, sickened, or diseased creature, roll INT. ☐ Poisoner On a **success**: You cure the poison. When you successfully damage an enemy On a **twist**: You cure the poison and use with a weapon you may expend a vial of up the medical supplies. poison and choose one: Deal an extra 1d6 damage ☐ HONEYED WORDS Your victim falls asleep Your victim becomes dizzy and starts When you convince someone to act by vomiting. telling them what they want to hear, roll CHA. ☐ GHOST On a **success**: They will do it or offer you a lesser version of what you asked. When you hide from mundane scrutiny, On a **twist**: They will first demand a roll DEX. concession. On a success: You can move around unseen. SHINY On a **twist**: You remain unseen as long as you stay still. Once per session, gain 1 XP when you loot a valuable treasure.

WIZARD SPECIAL MOVES ☐ BEAST FORM You can transform into an animal that you ☐ FURY OF THE ELEMENTS have studied extensively, and back again. When you manipulate nearby elements or While in this form, your inventory is a list energies into an attack against your foes, of that animal's natural features. choose the level of damage you wish to inflict and roll WIS. ☐ HEALING TOUCH On a success: You inflict that level of elemental damage on your enemies. When you lay hands on a creature to On a twist: You and/or your allies (as magically heal them, roll WIS. relevant) also suffer the same amount of On a success: You heal 1d6 damage or damage. some other injury. On a **twist**: You transfer 1d6 damage or some other injury to yourself. ☐ ARCANE INSIGHT When you open your mind in search of GRAND WORDS insight or answers, tell the GM what you're looking for and roll INT. When you appeal to someone's sense of On a **success**: You find something useful. reason, morality, or duty, say what they On a twist: You find something upsetting, should do and roll CHA. confusing, or dangerous. On a success: You inspire them to believe in your message and will follow your command. ☐ MAGICAL LITERACY On a **twist**: They will follow along for now When you read arcane texts, scrolls, or out of guilt, shame, or confusion. ☐ STRANGE TONGUE

spellbooks, roll INT.

On a **success**: You summon the magic on the page into being.

On a twist: You summon the magic on the page into being, erasing its contents in the process.

☐ BOUND ELEMENT

Choose a bound element. You can summon and sustain a fistful of that element at will as long as you concentrate. Fire, Water, Air, Earth, Darkness, Light, Acid, Electricity, Ice, Void, Verdancy, Rot You speak an extra language fluently.

☐ CURIOSITY

Once per session, gain 1 XP when you learn new secrets about the world.

THE GAME MASTER

Your role is to describe the world, its contents, and the outcomes of actions. Remember to:

- Play to find out what happens
- Honour the dice
- Barf forth a messy world
- Draw maps, but leave blanks

GM Moves

When a player rolls a failure, or you need to know what happens next, use one of these **GM moves**:

WARN THEM

- Show signs of trouble elsewhere
- Start a clock or tick a clock

ROB THEM

• Steal, damage, or break something or someone

Injure Them

- Hurt them or a friend
- Damage or destroy their armor
- Impair a stat
- Kill them

TWIST THE OUTCOME

- Offer success at a cost
- Offer a partial success
- Give what they think they want

ESCALATE

- Introduce new problems
- Make the situation worse
- Bleed them

CLOCKS

Divide a circle into sections as needed. Start it full, empty or halfway. Tick it up or down as events occur, and trigger new events when it fills or empties. Track things like resources, situations, travel, threats, hunger, XP, etc.

THREATS

Different kinds of threats have extra, more specific GM moves to inspire you.

Cursed Places

- Shift, move, rearrange
- Disgorge something
- Lure someone in
- Leave a mark on someone

OVERLORDS

- Attack suddenly, directly, forcefully
- Seize something or someone for leverage or information
- Negotiate, promise, demand
- Claim territory

SWARMS

- Grow in size
- Raise up a champion
- Overwhelm

Afflictions

- Make the smallest thing a struggle
- Spread to someone new
- Present a false perception

Terrors

- Appear from nowhere
- Inflict horror upon a victim

Foes

Enemies & monsters should follow what makes sense in the fiction. Most foes have between 4 & 16 HP; some kind of armor; and any appropriate special properties, abilities, or moves.

Treat packs or swarms of enemies, as one enemy with more HP.

KOBOLD

4hp, 1 natural armor, immune to fire, swarms enemies.

When you enter a space that has been occupied by kobolds for more than an hour, you trigger a trap that deals 2d6 damage.