NICK BLADE REFERENCE SERIES · VERSION 1.0

The Progression Fantasy Terminology Map

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GENRE & CULTURAL ORIGIN

Labels can overlap without becoming interchangeable.

- LitRPG
- Cultivation
- Xianxia
- Portal fantasy
- GameLit
- Wuxia
- Xuanhuan
- Isekai

STORY STRUCTURES & PREMISES

The shape of the climb or the event that changes the world.

- Academy
- Dungeon core
- Kingdom building
- Regression
- System invasion
- Tower climb
- Crafting
- Dungeon crawler
- Monster evolution
- Reincarnation
- Time loop

NARRATIVE-FOCUS TERM

PROGRESSION FANTASY

Earned growth is central.

WAYS OF DESCRIBING GROWTH

The direction, scale, or consequence of becoming more.

- Advancement
- Power scaling
- Training arc
- OP protagonist
- Rank / tier
- Weak-to-strong

GAME-LIKE MECHANICS

How a story makes rules and progress visible.

- Attribute
- Class
- Level
- Quest
- Skill tree
- System
- Build
- XP
- Mana
- Skill
- Stat sheet

CULTIVATION CONCEPTS

Common concepts - not a universal ladder.

- Qi
- Meridian
- Closed-door cultivation
- Breakthrough
- Foundation Establishment
- Sect
- Dao
- Dantian
- Technique
- Bottleneck
- Realm / stage
- Tribulation
- Alchemy

Descriptive map; individual stories and communities use these terms differently.

nickblade.com/fantasy/progression-fantasy-glossary/