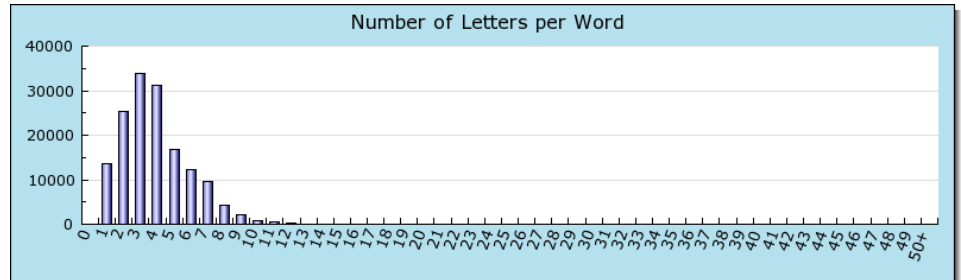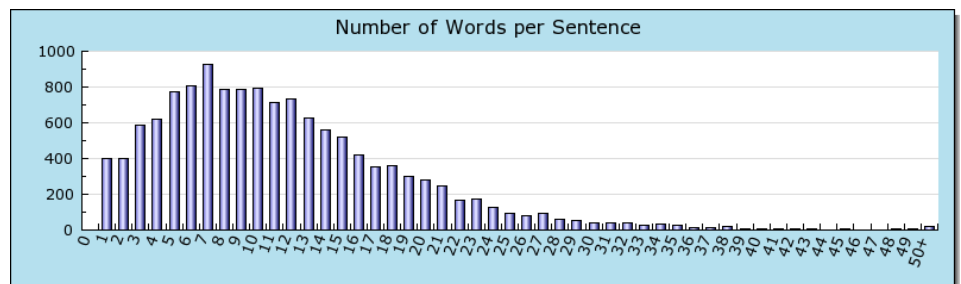# Moving on to the next phase

I made it and with eight days to spare. Final word count, for now, 147,494 words. Feels like I should go and find the extra 506 words to add. It ended up at 135 chapters plus a forward and an acknowledgment, or 1080 words per chapter. The longest chapter is 4,472 words and the shortest is 151.
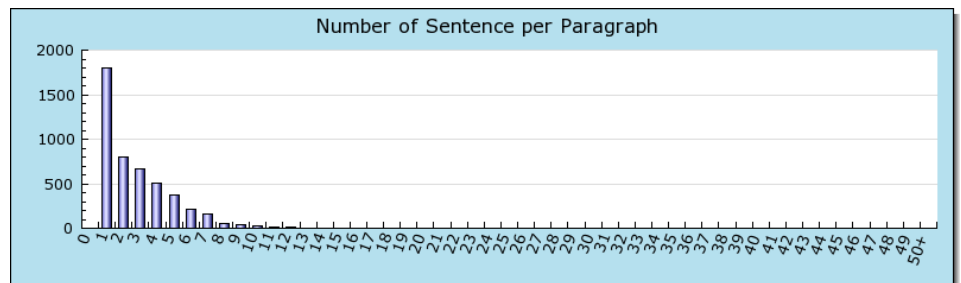
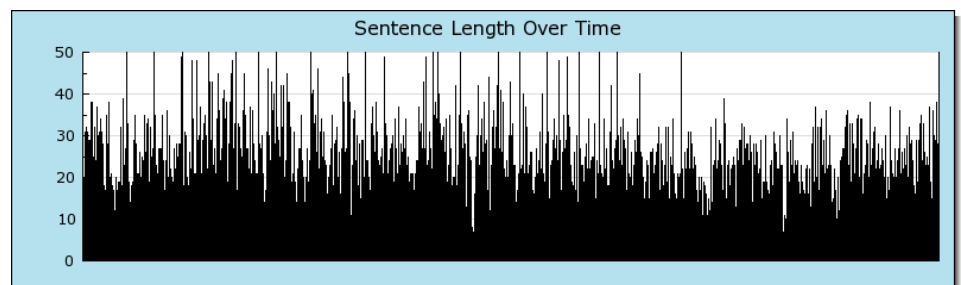Number of words 150,494
Average letter per word 3.9

Number of sentences is 13,166
Average words per sentence is 11.4

Number of paragraphs is 4,673
Average sentences per paragraph is 2.8

This chart is a little misleading because it is 13,166 lines squishes into 172 lines, so each line represents that maximum for 76 sentences. Still, it shows the variation of length in the story.

I ran my story through the analyzer I wrote – the results are on the right. It shows the variety in my writing. The sentences length is the one that is the most interesting to me. I actually have a measurable number of 50+ word long sentences.

Make sure to sign-up at http://www.douglasgclarke.com/lists/?p=subscribe so you won't miss the next issue.

I also ran my story through a readability checker. It analysis the story using several different rubrics. I think it is interesting that the same story can score as third-grade and seventh-grade.

Readability Grade Levels	
Readability Formula	**Grade**
Flesch–Kincaid Grade Level	3.9
Gunning Fog Index	6.0
Coleman–Liau Index	5.0
SMOG Index	7.0
Automated Readability Index	3.0
Average Grade Level	5.0

Readability Scores	
Readability Formula	**Score**
Flesch Reading Ease	87.6
CEFR Level	B1
IELTS Level	4–5
Spache Score	2.3
New Dale–Chall Score	2.9
Ogden Basic English	n/a

Text Quality		
Sentences > 30 Syllables	691	5%
Sentences > 20 Syllables	2609	20%
Words > 4 Syllables	141	0%
Words > 12 Letters	68	0%
Passive Voice Count	1527	2%
Adverb Count	9001	6%
Cliché Count	26	0%

The text quality measurements were a little more interesting to me; 5% of my sentences have thirty or more syllables. I wonder if that's good?

6% of the words are adverbs. That seems high since Stephen King said, "The road to hell is paved with adverbs." When I thought about that, I also remembered that someone said that exclamation points should be rare. I went and did a search for them. I found that I had 66. I checked to see if all of them were needed. In my review, I removed 14.

Having fun with this, I looked at the number of sentences and how many were "regular", questions and exclamations. I'm a little surprised that the questions are this high.

Sentences	12,939	
.	11,932	92.2%
?	956	7.4%
!	51	0.4%

Next, I looked at "complex" sentences; those with lists, commas, conjunctions and one particular to me, the long dashes which are somewhere in between commas and semicolons.

It was interesting to me that added up they are more of these sentence extending words than there are sentences, which means – since most of my sentences don't have these words – that there are lots of sentences that have several of these. Which makes sense since list often have several elements, so have several commas.

Compound/lists	13,891	107.3%
,	7,666	59.2%
And	4,255	32.9%
But	1048	8.1%
Then	541	4.2%
–	281	2.2%
;	82	0.6%
However	18	0.1%

Seeing that so many sentences had commas, I wondered how many were dialog. The 18% didn't surprise me as I like dialog.

Quotes	2320	18%

Since my story is all – now – written in first-person, I checked on the common pronouns, plus I.

This one surprised me, and I'm not sure I know what to make of it. The "he" and "she" is partly from the dialog – she said, he said. But the 61% for "I" is hard to accept. I must have sentences with multiple "I's" in them.

	15,112	117%
I	7,865	61%
You	2,113	16%
He/his	2,196	17%
She/her	1,737	13%
They/them	938	7%

The last thing I checked was proper nouns. Again, higher than I would have guessed – especially since I know that some are used singularly in dialog. I guess this means that my story is character focused.

Proper nouns	3,572	27.6%
Annay	709	5.5%
Master	465	3.6%
Turpis/Turpes	385	3.0%
Hector	368	2.8%
Red Beard	269	2.1%
Foetur	263	2.0%
Tom	261	2.0%
Julie	184	1.4%
Caedmon	133	1.0%
Captain	100	0.7%
Latem	94	0.8%
Angustia	94	0.7%
Brian	83	0.6%
Samuel Gees	63	0.5%
Jenkens	51	0.4%
Chief	50	0.4%

So that's it for the numbers. I hope it was interesting to you. I'm off now looking for artists and getting ready to send off the manuscript to my editor again. I'm trying to decide if I want to do a straight read-through first.

Until next month, I hope you Spring is good.

Douglas Clarke