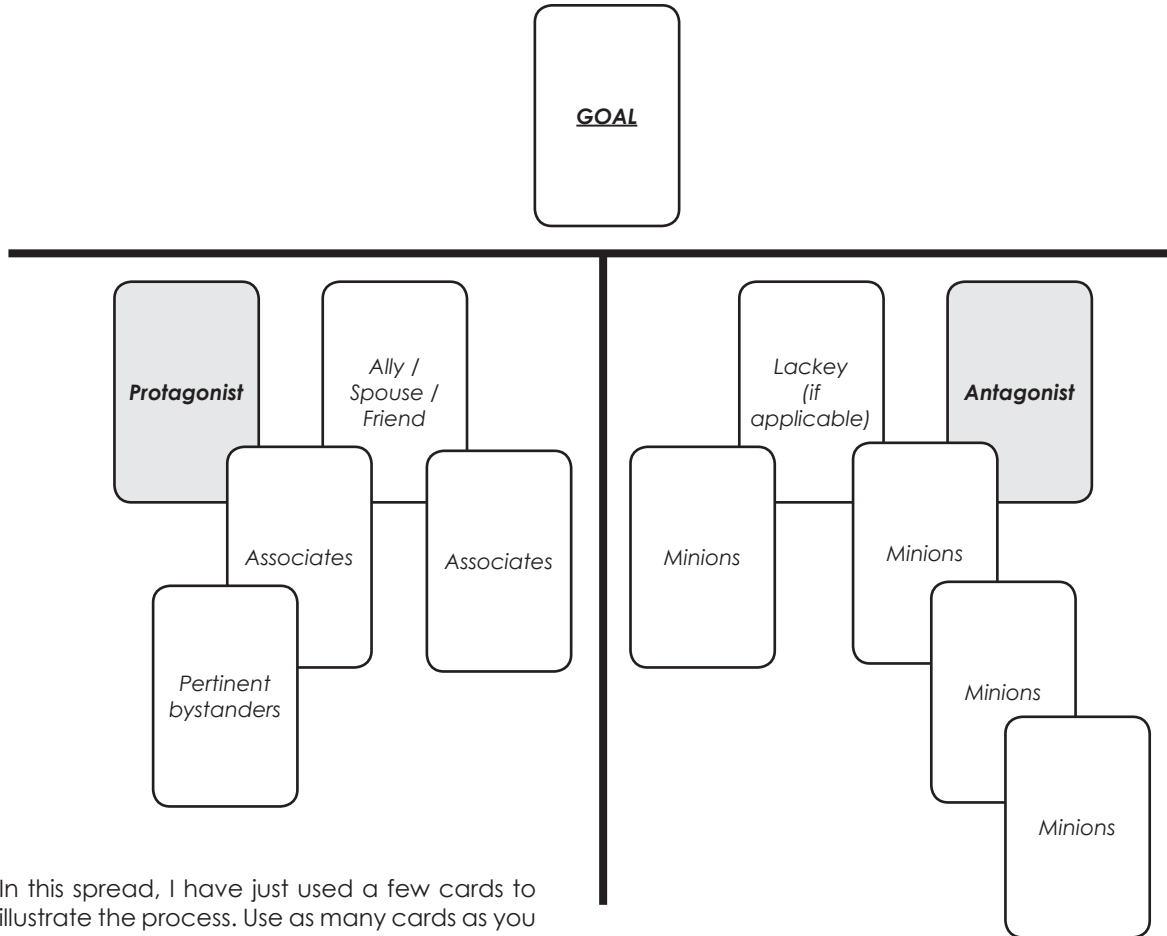


Us versus Them Examination spread



In this spread, I have just used a few cards to illustrate the process. Use as many cards as you need, even if you have to use multiple decks.

This spread is a variation of the game *War*, from earlier in the book. Choose a card that represents the end-goal, or choose two goal cards: one for the protagonist and one for the antagonist, if it is appropriate to your story. Then, choose cards to represent the protagonist and the antagonist. Place them at odds (one on the left, one on the right), slightly below the goal card(s). Now, give them allies to their cause. Create a dog pile of everyone in the conflict. Compare sides. Is one side outmatched? Does one side have a higher quality of allies? Who stands out in each scenario?

Use this for your overall story or for any individual scene. After you have placed the various characters (add more cards, or use less, as you need for each scene), move the cards around to study the interaction of the various characters. Do some cards change sides, as characters betray each other? Put cards up against each other, or pair them up together, as the characters they represent directly interact with the other characters in the scene. Ask yourself questions about their interaction. Look for commonalities of character and purpose among allies and enemies. Study the interplay suggested by the images on each card as they all strive to reach their chosen goal. This spread will help you deepen the texture of your scenes and story.