

STORY WRITING HINTS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: A FIVE-STEP PLAN TO HELP YOU PLAN A STORY...

1. Who is going to tell your story?

| Person | Persona | Example | |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| First person | A true story about you | <i>I remember the time I started school</i> | |
| | A made up story about you | <i>The alien space-ship beamed me up</i> | |
| | A made up story where you adopt a persona (write as if you are someone else) | <i>My name is Clara; it is now three months since I realised my destiny was to use my magical powers to save the world</i> | |
| Third person | A story told d by an omniscient narrator | <i>Clara looked moodily into the mirror</i> | |

2. The ingredients...

- Decide who the characters are, the setting and the time.
- What does the main character want to achieve? What are they up against?
- How will they achieve it? And does the problem return?
- The climax...What is it all building towards?
- The ending: is it solved or end on a cliff hanger?

3. Your Characters

Consider what they look like, their background, relationships to others, how they speak. Use dialogue and action to show us how they think and feel. Showing is makes it much more real than telling us.

Characters with contrasting personalities will help to define them in your mind and the readers. It will also help to create conflict, which will keep the reader's attention and make us care more about the main character.

I often use characters that I know in real-life. Obviously I change their names and even their characteristics! But to start with someone real often really helps.

4. Openings and endings.

Openings might include: Exclamations! Rhetorical questions? Dialogue. These all grab your reader, which is something you need to do at the beginning. Endings might use ellipsis, a link to the first sentence, a twist in the tale, a question to the reader or a suggestion that there is another story to be told...

5. The best tip I can give you is to **enjoy** the writing. If you enjoy writing it, we'll enjoy reading it. The beauty is YOU are the boss. It's your world. The only rules are the ones that you make. So what do YOU want to happen...?