

Writing Stories

Some writers write true stories. True stories tell about people that really lived. Some true stories tell about something that happened to the writer. Other stories are made up. In a made-up story anything can happen. Animals can talk and people can fly. What kind of story do you like to write?

The Main Parts of a Story

Almost every story, made-up or true, has a **beginning**, a **middle** and an **ending**.

The Beginning

- ▶ Tells **who** is in the story. The people in a story are called **characters**. Most stories have a **main character**. The main character is the most important character in the story.
- ▶ Tells **where** and **when** the story takes place. The time and the place where a story takes place is the **setting**.
- ▶ Tells **what** problem the main character has.

The Middle

- ▶ Tells more about the problem and how the characters try to solve it.

The Ending

- ▶ Tells **how** the problem is solved.

Kinds of Stories

Do you like stories that tell about people who lived long ago?
Do you like stories with lots of action? There are many different kinds of stories.

KIND OF STORY	WHO	WHEN AND WHERE	WHAT HAPPENS
Adventure	a good main character	forest, jungle, ocean	■ The main character faces dangers.
Fable and folktale	talking animals, old man or woman	in the country, long ago	■ The main character learns a lesson.
Fairytale	kings and queens, princesses and princes, giants	once upon a time . . . in a land far, far away	■ Bad characters cause trouble. ■ Good characters get special help. ■ Main character lives happily ever after.
Fantasy	people and things not found in the real world	make-believe places	■ Impossible things happen.
Personal narrative	the writer and other people or animals	the time and place the events happened	■ The writer tells a true story about something that happened to him or her.
Realistic story	characters are true to life	any time and place in the real world	■ The main characters face a problem with themselves, other people or nature.

Getting Ready to Write Your Story

Before you write a story, you must plan what you will write.
The first step is to think about what you want to write.

Think

Think about what kind of story you will write. Ask yourself these questions:

- What kind of story will I write? Will it be a true story or a made-up story?
- Who will read my story? What will interest my readers?
- Where and when does my story take place?
- Who is in my story? In a personal narrative, you will be the main character.
- What problem does the main character have?
- How is the problem solved?
- What happens at the end?

Gather

Where do writers get ideas for stories? Writers get ideas from many different places. You might get ideas from these:

- things that happen in your own life
- things that happen in the lives of people you know well
- your imagination
- television programmes or movies
- stories you have read
- the **Story Ideas** on page 4