

1. BRAINSTORMING

Brainstorming is where you come up with lots and lots of different ideas. Don't hold back! One just might inspire your next great story. If you're feeling stuck, try one of the activities below and see what sparks!



Read a book and draw inspiration from a character or setting



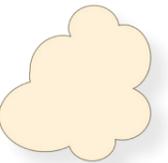
Talk to a friend to share ideas and help each other build on them



Find a picture in a book or magazine and make up a story about it



Do some doodling and find ideas to write about in your drawings



Choose random words from a book or dictionary and use them as a starting point



Go for a walk and pay attention to your surroundings



Set a timer and write whatever comes into your mind until the clock stops



Before you start writing, it can help to do some **planning** first. Take a moment to think about the character, genre and setting you'd like for your story using the questions below as a guide.

CHARACTER

Protagonist

- Who are they?
- What is their goal in the story?
- What challenges do they face?
- How do they change after facing these challenges?

Antagonist

- Who are they?
- Why are they in conflict with the protagonist?
- What is their goal?
- What are they willing to do to reach it?

Supporting characters

- Who are they?
- How do they fit into the story?
- What is their relationship to the other characters?



GENRE

Within my chosen genre:

- What are some common settings or worlds?
- What time periods are stories often set in?
- What kinds of characters or creatures often appear?
- What is the general feeling for readers?

SETTING

- Where and when does your story take place?
- How does your setting influence the mood of the story?
- What senses can you use to describe your setting?
- How does your chosen genre shape your setting?



Now it's time to **plot** your tale! Work through the questions below to plan the key events in your story. You may discover new paths as you write, but it never hurts to have a map!

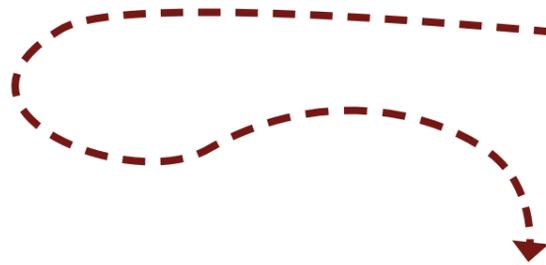
INTRODUCTION

- How are you going to hook your reader?
- Will you begin with dialogue, action or exposition?
- How does this set the scene for your story?



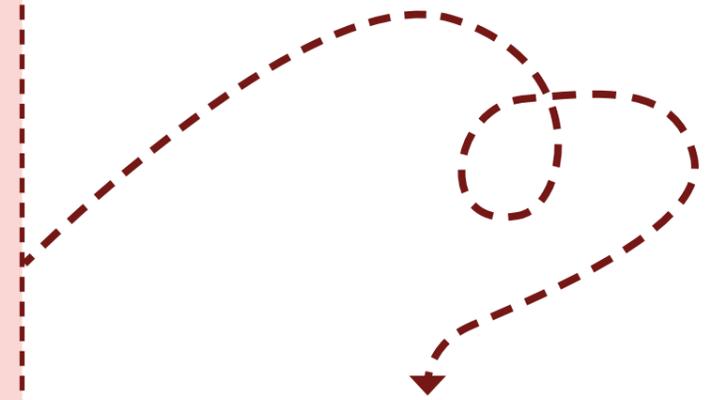
COMPLICATION

- What challenges will your protagonist face?
- How does this stop them from reaching their goal?
- How can this create tension in your story?



CLIMAX

- What is the most exciting part of your story?
- How does the tension build to this moment?
- What type of climax is it? (e.g. a battle, an escape, an emotional realisation)



CONCLUSION

- How did things change for your characters after the climax?
- How did that affect them?
- What emotions do you want your reader to feel at the end of the story?

The final steps are to **revise and edit** your story! Read over your words and work through the questions below to check everything is in the right place and telling the tale you want to tell.

Does my plot have a clear beginning, middle and end?

Have I included a complication for my protagonist?

Do I have tension that builds to a climax?

Have I used descriptive writing and sensory language?

Does the dialogue between characters seem natural?

Have I brought the story to a satisfying end with a clear resolution?

Are my words spelled correctly?

Have I used capital letters in the right places?

Do my questions have question marks?

Does my dialogue have speech marks?

Have I used commas and full stops to break up my sentences?

Is my tense and narrative voice consistent?



4. EDITING