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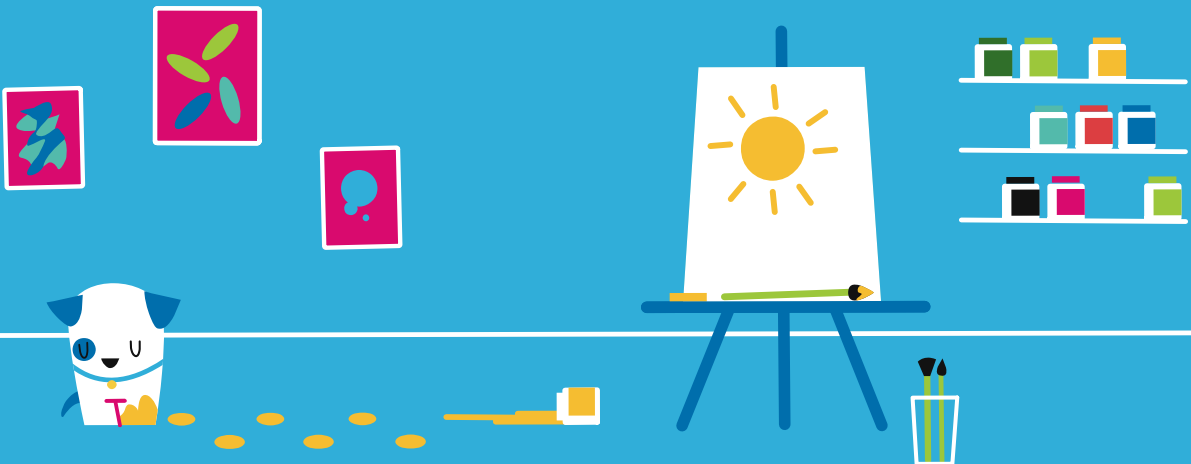
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WRITERS CONTEST

STORY WRITING FUN GUIDE

**Get inspired to create your
very own written work of art!**



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WRITERS CONTEST



BRAINSTORMING
is a way to come up with
new and different ideas.
Use those ideas to write a
GREAT STORY!

Brainstorming Activity

Use these activity pages to start your story.
Write down or draw whatever ideas you have.



Story Structure All stories have a beginning, middle and an end.

Write down or draw how you want the story to start, what happens during the story, and how will it end.

Beginning

Middle

End



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Main Character The person, animal or thing that **your story is about.** Create a list of different characters you want in your story and describe them. (Spike the dog is fluffy, Aunt Sally always wears funny clothes.)

Character

Description

Setting Where your story takes place.

Create a list of different places (the zoo, the moon) and choose whether it's the past, present or future (last year, next Tuesday). Think about how the setting might affect your character (the snow made it cold).

Setting



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Problem & Resolution The challenge your character(s) face and how they overcome it.

Create a list of problems (passing a math quiz, fighting an evil villain). Then in a separate list create ways to solve the problem. Choose your favorite scenarios and circle them.

Problem

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Resolution



All that brainstorming has paid off! You now have a basic plan. Turn the page over and use the space to start your story. Have fun!

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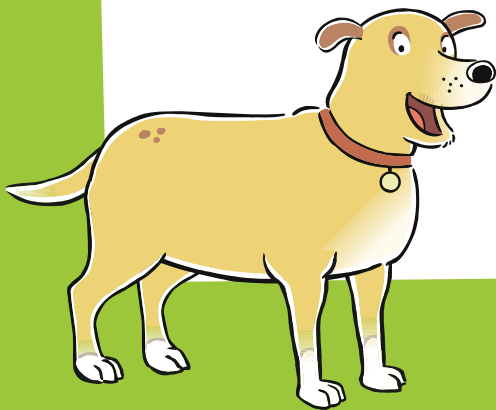


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Let the story writing begin!

Use this space to write your story



**Story running long?
Grab another sheet of paper!**

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Write This!

Write a caption for the picture below. Then either draw your own or cut and paste pictures into the empty boxes. Then write a caption for each picture.



It's a happy, sunny day!



(Write your own caption here.)



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Story Revision Checklist

Read your story out loud. Then ask yourself each of these questions. If the answer is yes, check it off on the checklist!



Does my story have a beginning, middle, and end?

☐

My story is organized!

Does my story answer my reader's questions about what happened?

☐

My story is developed!

Does my story include enough information?

☐

My story is detailed!

Does my story use clear and specific words?

☐

My story has good vocabulary!

Do my sentences make sense when I read them out loud?

☐

My story has good sentence structure!

Did I check my story for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization?

☐

My story is proofread!



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WRITE NOW!

Play with these ideas, and get your writing rolling!

Art by Stacy Curtis

Character Rap

By Susan O. Morelli

With a partner, decide on two characters who are going to have a conversation. Maybe your characters will be Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, Goldilocks and one of the three bears, or a lion and hippo who both want to drink from the same watering hole.

One of you starts the conversation on paper, writing a sentence as one of the characters. The other person writes a response as the second character. Keep going, back and forth, until you have written for about 10 minutes. Then read your script like a play, with each person reading his or her character's part.



Parody Play

By Beverly McLoughland

Rewrite a song from someone else's point of view. For example, imagine "The Twelve Days of Christmas" sung by a dog. What gifts would the dog receive? We've started the song below. Can you finish it?

*On the first day of Christmas,
My human gave to me
A doghouse with a flat-screen TV.*

*On the second day of Christmas,
My human gave to me
Two tasty bones and
A doghouse with a flat-screen TV.*

Fable-Able

By D.A. Woodliff

Do you know the story "The Tortoise and the Hare," with the lesson "Slow and steady wins the race"? It was written more than 2,000 years ago by Aesop, a Greek fable-teller, called a fabulist.

Now it's your turn to be a fabulous fabulist! Write your own fable with a moral or lesson, using animals as the characters. Will they include a brave lion? A sly fox? A strong ox? A proud peacock? It's up to you!

Photo Poems

By Beverly McLoughland

Write a poem that makes a favorite photo come to life. Your poem can be silly or thoughtful, true-to-life or outrageous. If you do this for a few photos, you can make them into a book.

Funny Fold-Ups

Get ready to laugh with these paper-passing games!

Character Creations

(for two or more people)

By Rosanne Lindsay

I learned this activity from my Hungarian mother, who learned it as a child. She called it *Kis Ember* (keesh EHM-behr), which is Hungarian for "Little Man."

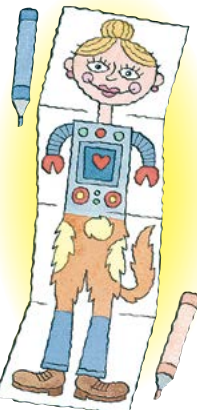
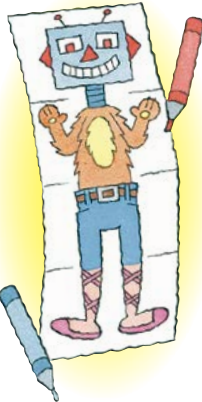
Give each person a strip of paper (about 3 inches by 11 inches) and markers.

Each player thinks of a character, then draws the character's head and neck at the top of his or her paper. The player then folds back the paper, leaving only the neck visible, and passes the folded paper to the person on the right.

Each player draws his or her own character's body, from neck to waist, on the paper he or she has received without looking at what was drawn

before. Folding back the paper to leave just the waist visible, each player passes the paper to the right.

Players continue drawing one section of their character at a time (waist to knees, knees to feet), then folding and passing the papers. After the final pass, they open the completed drawings to reveal the mixed-up, one-of-a-kind characters.



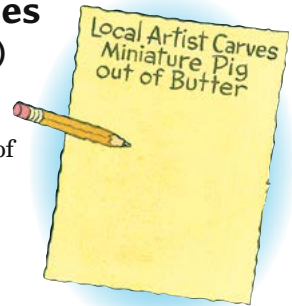
Hilarious Headlines

(for three or more people)

By Chelsea Ottman Rak

Give each person a sheet of paper and a pencil.

Each player thinks up an imaginary newspaper headline and writes it at the top of his or her paper.



Players pass the papers to the person on their right so that everyone gets someone else's headline. Just below the headline players receive, they draw a picture to illustrate it, then fold back the headline so that just the picture shows. Again, they pass the papers to the right.

Players write a new headline to go with the picture they receive, then fold back the picture so that just the new headline shows. They pass the papers again.

Play continues until everyone has written or drawn on each paper. Then unfold the papers and share the silliness.



Art by David Helton.

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Spin a Silly Story

By Jean Kuhn Art by Tom Nick Cocotos

Weave outrageous tales with the help of a "story card" deck.

To Make the Cards

1. With a parent's permission, cut out pictures from old magazines and catalogs.
2. Glue each picture onto an index card. Make at least 20 cards.

To Play


Deal an equal number of cards to each player. Each person keeps his or her cards facedown in a pile. The first person flips over her top card and begins a story by saying something related to the picture. For example, if the card shows a parachute, she might say,

"Last summer, I went parachuting for the first time in my life. But suddenly . . ."

Player 2 then flips the top card in his pile to continue the story. For example, if the card shows a polar bear, he might say,

"The wind picked up, and I was carried to the North Pole. Luckily a polar bear was out for a drive in his convertible, and I landed in the passenger seat."

The next player flips a card, and on the story goes. The object is to weave a tale for everyone to enjoy.

When you're finished with one story, shuffle the cards and play again! 



More Ways to Play!

Spread the cards faceup, and choose one on each turn.

Players get just 30 seconds per turn.

Use cards as idea-starters for creating drawings or poems.

Make a deck with verbs instead of pictures.

Play charades with the deck. (Silently act out the picture while others try to guess.)

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You Finish the Story!

We came up with this story beginning.

We want you to write an ending for it!



The Tale of the Five-Nosed Monster

Art by Paula J. Becker.

A storm raged outside.

BA-BOOM!

Mindy and Jamal shuddered as thunder shook their home.

"When are Mom and Dad coming back?" asked Mindy.

"Soon," said Jamal. "They're just checking on Mrs. Horn. Don't worry."

CRACK!

For a fraction of a second, lightning revealed a figure in the living-room window. It looked just like a monster with five noses.

Jamal gasped, and Mindy screamed.

Just then . . .

What do you think will happen next?
Finish the story!

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