

## Story writing ideas

Writing stories is great fun once you get started and is also a great activity to share with children. Here's some fun and informative suggestions to help you along the way.

### Get started!

It's better to start your story writing with some ideas in mind, rather than sit and wait for inspiration to arrive. You can find story ideas everywhere – they might be from a conversation you overheard, a newspaper headline, or something funny or strange that once happened to you.

### Coming up with ideas:

There are several ways to come up with an idea for a story, simple methods are often the most fun.

Create a story framework:

- Take a blank piece of paper and divide it into four boxes.
- Think of a character and draw a picture of them in the first box and give them a name.
- In the second box, draw a place or setting for the action to happen and give that a name too.
- For your third box, draw someone or something that causes a problem or source of conflict, give them a name too.
- Finally think of something random, maybe it's the first thing you see when you look out of the window or on the table.

Now you have all the ingredients to make a story. You can use your drawings as the basis to your story and start thinking about how you might build a story around them.

Use pictures as inspiration:

- Take a picture from a newspaper or magazine and use it as inspiration for your story idea.
- Who are the characters in the picture?
- What has happened to them or is going to happen to them?
- What is the scene they are in?

Look around you:

- Use the space around you and pick five random objects, two people's names and a place.
- Now see if you can link all the objects, people and place together in a story idea. The more random the better!
- Include an obstacle for your characters to overcome. What keeps the reader reading is the desire to know how the character will manage to overcome the problems or obstacles they face. If you know what problems your characters will face, you're halfway there.