

CREATIVE WRITING GUIDE

FOR AGES 5-9

INSPIRED BY :

The
Stories
OF
GOD
(AND KIKI)

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Day 1: The Character

All stories are about someone, so, to start us off, we're going to come up with a character.

Your main character is the hero of your story (there might be other characters they meet too, but a main character is the one the story focuses on). A main character can be a person, an animal, or even a thing. To practice making a good main character, think about yourself.

- What do you like?
- Why do you like it?
- What do you not like?
- Why do you not like it?
- How many siblings do you have?
- What's your favorite song? Food? Memory? Thing to do?

Anything you come up with is what makes you, you.

In the same way, characters should have things that make them special.

For example, let's practice coming up with a main character called Bubba. Bubba really likes peanut butter milkshakes because peanut butter is his favorite food. Bubba even brushes his teeth with peanut butter. Bubba lives in a house with a dog who likes jelly, but NOT peanut butter.

Now it's your turn.

Take a minute to come up with a main character in today's guide. Write down what they like, who their friends are, what makes them happy and sad. Where they might go. What they might say to someone who needs their help.



Day 1: Who Is My Character?

List the ideas you have about your story character in each bubble below.
Then, draw your character in the blank space in the middle!

My character's name is ...

My character likes ...

My character's friends are ...

My character does not like ...

My character likes to say ...

Draw your character in the space above

My character is happy when ...

My character is sad when ...



Day 2: The World

Every character needs a world to live in, so today, we are going to come up with a world.

The wonderful thing about creating a character's world is that it doesn't have to be exactly like how things work in the real world. You can let your imagination take you anywhere.

For example, in the real world, a house can't move, but in a story set in a different world, a house could have robot legs and can wander around from city to city.

The fun thing about creating worlds is thinking about what would happen if a strange or silly thing was true. For example, if houses could walk, then maybe highways would be filled with houses. Maybe houses would be powered by wood and fireplaces and, instead of stopping for gas, you need to stop for firewood. Maybe every city has empty neighborhoods for houses to come and park in.

Think of something silly that doesn't exist in the real world.

Use today's guide to help you practice coming up with your character's world.





Day 2: Meet My Imaginary World!

What do schools look like?

What kinds of food are there?

What else is special
about this world?

What do houses look like?

How do characters travel?

What are some special things
you can do in this world?



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Day 3: The Want

On day one, we learned that every story has a main character. Then, on day two, we learned that every character lives in a world.

Now, we'll learn that every character has "a want". Everyone wants something and, a lot of times, we think of new ways to try and get it. A good story is all about what happens when a character tries to get something they want.

There are different kinds of wants a character can have. Maybe a character wants to be the best at something. Maybe a character wants to be happy or to not be sad.

Think about something you really want.

- What is it?
- What are you doing, or will you do, to get it?
- Do you need to ask for help?
- Will you need to learn something to do it?

For example, let's say the character we met on day one, Bubba, really, really wants a peanut butter milkshake, and lives in a house with robot legs. Bubba learns that the best peanut butter milkshake in the world is in a different city that will take three days to walk to. A fun story would tell Bubba's journey as he sets off in his walking house to go get the best milkshake in the world.

You can also think about your favorite character in a book or TV show. What do they want? Practice spotting it with your family.

Use today's guide to help you come up with what your character wants.





Day 3: What Does My Character Want?

Use the table below to list out what your character really wants and some ways to try and get it.

My character wants ...	How to get it?



Day 4: The Problem

Yesterday, we learned that a good character wants something, but there wouldn't be much of a story if the character got it without much happening. That's not really a story, that's just something that happened.

That's where The Problem comes in.

A good story makes the character solve and defeat a bunch of problems in order to get the thing they want. Sometimes, the character can solve and defeat stuff on their own but, a lot of times, they'll need help from someone else.

Think of the thing you really wanted yesterday.

- What problems kept you from getting it?
- Did you need help solving them?
- What did you do to solve or defeat them?
- Where did you have to go to do it?

For example, let's say Bubba is on his way to get the best milkshake in the world when he loses control of his house. The house winds up walking up a giant mountain. So now Bubba must figure out how to get the house working, get off the mountain, and back on the right road. To do that, he needs to find a house fixer who is willing to climb a mountain.

Now THAT'S a good story.

Use today's guide to help you come up with what your character wants.



Day 4: The Problem

Create an interesting problem for your story.



_____ really wants ...



So, _____ does this:



But there was a problem ...



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Day 5: Putting Everything Together

So, now we know every good story . . .

- Has a main character who lives in a world.
- The main character wants something,
- But they have problems keeping them from getting it.

Once you figure out all those parts, you combine them to make a story. Once you get more comfortable, you can start to ask questions that might change the story.

- What if a character wanted two things but could only choose one?
- What would a character do if they didn't get what they want?
- Who does a character want to be like? Is that something they really want?

Using what you learned, use today's guide to help you write your own story. You can come up with your own or use some of the ideas in the next page.



Day 5: This Is My Story!

Fill in the chart below to complete your story.



My Character	The World

_____ really wants _____

and did this to get it: _____

But there was a problem ...

In the end:



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Story-Writing Prompts for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners

Young children who are learning how to write can still tell stories—verbally or even with drawings! Creative writing is a wonderful way to develop literacy skills.

Start with a simple questioning technique with young children (like 5W1H) for story writing. Creating one sentence at a time is a great way to build up a story. And remember to include a “feelings” question!

Here is an example:

QUESTION

RESPONSE

What did you do this weekend?

I went to a birthday party.

Who was celebrating their birthday?

It was a party for my friend, Isaac.

Where was the party at?

He had the party at his house.

When was the party held?

We had the party on Sunday after church.

Isaac goes to our church.

What else did you do?

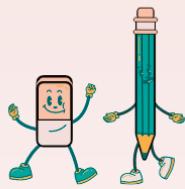
We played games and everyone sang the birthday song.
Isaac blew out 5 candles on his cake.

How did you feel?

I had fun at the party!

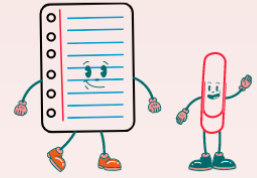
Use the template in the next page as a guide for your child.





Story Prompts

Write or draw your answers to build your short story.



Who

What

Where

When

What Else

How Did
You Feel



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Story Ideas for Grades 1–3

**Stories are more fun when they go places
outside of the ordinary world!**

Let your creativity shine with the writing prompts below.

1. Make up a story about a boy or girl who turns dogs into squirrels every time they sneeze.
2. Make up a story about how you discover that your house is actually a really old spaceship.
3. Tell a story about a boy, girl, or animal who catches lightning in a bottle.
4. You find an old map hidden in a secret tree in the woods. Who did it belong to? Where does it lead to?
5. There once was a girl or boy who filled their car up with balloons. What happens next?
6. You are exploring your backyard and you find a strange device that does . . . what? What happens after you figure out what it does?
7. Tell a story about a robot who loves ice cream but never gets to leave the spaceship it lives in to get some.
8. Write a story about what happens when a dog visits a planet where only cats live. What happens? How does it get there?
9. You discover you can jump in puddles in the street, and they bring you to a completely different world. Where do they go?
10. Make up a story where the characters are small and can ride around on leaves or mice. Who are they? What are they? What happens?

