

Story Starter

Read the following story prompt carefully and continue the story.

As I sat amongst the withering leaves, an old oak tree caught my attention. I squinted - it appeared that the branches were growing right before my eyes! I stared harder as the vines slowly edged towards me; the whole forest was spreading faster and faster, engulfing everything in its path.....

Plan your story :

Who is the main character?

What is happening in the forest?

Why is it happening?

How will the story end?

To keep your reader interested, use exciting vocabulary, describe the setting, use a range of sentence openers, make sure the story 'flows' and finally **PROOFREAD** your work.

CHECKLIST

Careful planning _____

Correct punctuation _____

Paragraphs _____

Exciting vocabulary _____

Proofread story _____

Descriptive Writing

To set a scene, writing needs to be descriptive and include lots of detail. Remember, you have to paint a picture in the readers mind!

Take a look at this. Draw arrows from the words outside the paragraph to show where they are used in the piece of writing.

an extra clause

adjective

She sat in the kitchen, ***cluttered with pots and pans***, resting her head on the ***old, wooden table which looked as sad as her***. The ***porcelain*** plates, which had been given to her by her grandmother, lay in pieces on the ***harsh, concrete*** floor.

personification

adjectives

Create your own setting using the same opening line.

She sat in the kitchen _____

Story Writing

Read the following story starter.

By moonlight she wandered around her familiar garden, watering her prize-winning tomatoes and talking animatedly to her blooming rose bushes. This was her favourite time, when she was alone in her precious garden, away from peering eyes.....

Task 1

Describe the character in this story, using a range of adjectives and adverbs. How do you imagine she looks, sounds, moves?

Task 2

Continue to develop the story, explaining the character's curious behaviour. Add a *twist* to the tale to keep the reader interested.

Character Description

Character Descriptions

The Lonely Old Man

The Posh Aunt

The Grumpy Boss

The Crazy Uncle

The Terrifying Teacher

The Annoying Sister

Create a picture of each character in your mind. Imagine the way they walk, talk, the things they do, the clothes they wear. Write a paragraph about each character using a range of vivid vocabulary; bring these characters to life!

Descriptive word list

Now mix up the character list and invent a totally new person, for example, the terrifying old man, write a brief description.

Draw a picture of your character, label interesting features.

Appearances Matter

Creating a character involves a lot of thought and planning. Characters need a memorable personality and a visual description.

Write about each character from the list below. Ask yourself questions such as, how tall are they? What colour hair do they have? Are they young or old? What are their prominent features?

Character list

Dr. Jones
Grandma Dorothy
Mr Phillips the Headmaster
Aunt Maureen
Mr Jenkins the shopkeeper
Omar the gardener

DON'T

Write a basic description like this:

He is very tall and has black hair- this does not make your character seem interesting!

DO

Write something like this:

He was taller than average and had spiky black hair. His face was stern with a steely gaze....

A Story Structure

Stories need an introduction, middle and ending. Use the starting lines given for each section to create your own story.

Introduction Every Monday morning, it was the same old story. Jack Briggs would grab me on the way to school and demand my lunch money. For a quiet life, I'd hand it over willingly. _____

Middle My revenge was carefully planned, surely nothing could go wrong _____

Ending Some would say I was brave, others might say I was stupid, but
