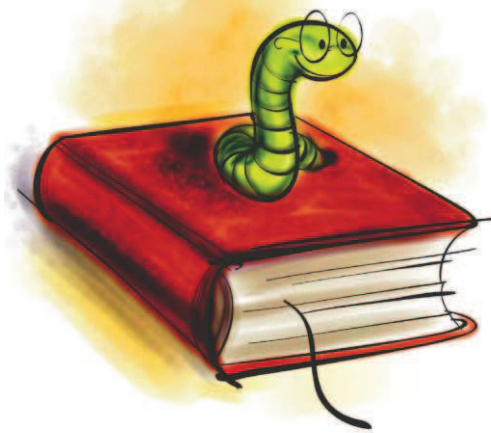


YOUNG AUTHOR

TIPS AND GUIDELINES



For Intermediate Grades



YOUNG AUTHORS' BOOK OUTLINE

YOUNG AUTHORS

WRITING BOOKS AND STORIES CAN BE A LOT OF FUN. IT IS IMPORTANT TO WRITE ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN. THIS FORM WILL HELP YOU GET STARTED WRITING YOUR BOOK. YOU CAN USE THIS FORM ON YOUR OWN OR WITH AN ADULT HELPER.

CHARACTERS

ANIMALS

PEOPLE

CREATURES

THINGS

LIST 2 TYPES OF CHARACTERS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO WRITE ABOUT:

NAMES

LIST 8 NAMES:

SETTING (WHERE THE STORY TAKES PLACE)

CIRCLE ONE:

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

EXAMPLES OF SETTINGS

IN A GARDEN

IN A SMALL TOWN

IN THE BEDROOM

ON A FAR AWAY PLANET

AT SCHOOL

BY A STREAM

IN A BIG CITY

ON A FARM

IN THE KITCHEN

NAME 3 POSSIBLE SETTINGS FOR A BOOK YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ:

BEGINNING

THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY IS VERY IMPORTANT. IT CAN SET THE TONE FOR THE WHOLE STORY. MANY STORIES START WITH THE WORDS "ONCE UPON A TIME", BUT THERE ARE OTHER INTERESTING WAYS TO START A STORY: ONE BRIGHT SUNNY MORNING..., EVERY YEAR..., EARLY ONE EVENING..., ONE AFTERNOON IN MRS. WHITE'S CLASSROOM..., IT ALL STARTED AT..., ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL ONE MORNING...

LIST 3 INTERESTING STORY STARTERS:

PROBLEM

ALL GOOD STORIES HAVE A PROBLEM WHICH IS RESOLVED DURING THE STORY. SOME EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS ARE: FINDING YOUR WAY HOME AFTER GETTING LOST, HAVING A CURSE PUT ON YOU BY A WICKED WITCH, BEING TRAPPED ON A DIFFERENT PLANET, WANTING SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY...

LIST 3 INTERESTING PROBLEMS THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ ABOUT:

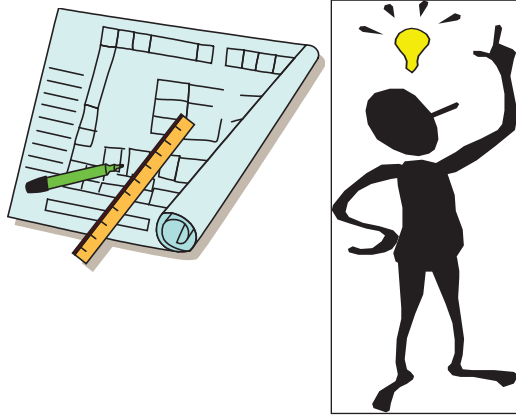
RESOLVING THE PROBLEM IS THE MAIN PART OF YOUR STORY. SELECT TWO OF THE PROBLEMS YOU LISTED ABOVE. IN A FEW SENTENCES TELL HOW SOMEONE MIGHT SOLVE THAT PROBLEM:

ENDING

A GOOD ENDING IS IMPORTANT FOR ANY STORY. MANY FAIRY TALES END WITH THE WORDS, "...AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER". HOWEVER NOT ALL STORIES WOULD MAKE SENSE WITH THAT ENDING. SOME EXAMPLES OF ENDINGS FOR STORIES WOULD BE...WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT SUMMER, THEY WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN, WE FINALLY KNEW THAT EVERYTHING WOULD WORK OUT FOR THE BEST, I KNEW I HAD A FRIEND FOREVER...

LIST 3 POSSIBLE ENDINGS FOR A STORY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ:

YOU NOW HAVE THE INGREDIENTS FOR A GOOD BOOK!!! YOU WILL JUST NEED TO ORGANIZE THEM INTO YOUR BOOK AND ADD PICTURES. HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



PLANNING A STORY

Planning a story is almost as important as writing it. Following a plot development outline or a story map can help. Organize your ideas about characters, setting, and plot. This type of story outlining is like a rubber band. It should be able to "stretch" to fit the package it holds.

As you write your story think about the following questions:

1. Does the story have a beginning, middle and an end?
2. Do the paragraphs in the story follow the story outline?
3. Is the main character described clearly?
4. Are minor characters introduced to the plot?
5. Is the main character's problem solved by the end of the story?
6. Is the setting described in clear and colorful adjectives?

SOME POINTERS ON WRITING

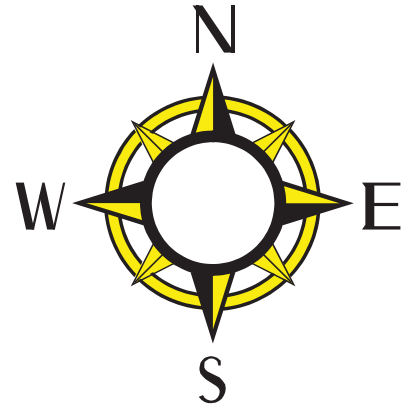
You don't need a lot of equipment to get started writing. A sharp pencil and a blank piece of paper will usually get you going on the writing part. But...you do need to make a commitment to yourself, your parents and teachers, to do the best you can and to finish the project.

Having your own special place to work may be helpful.

Develop a story map and get the ideas down in what writers call a "rough" draft. With this rough draft you change words you don't like and move sentences around. Read your rough draft to several people...ask for comments and revise it.

Try to follow a schedule. Plan the times you will work on the manuscript and stick to them.

STORY MAP



THE SETTING

PLACE

TIME

THE CHARACTERS

THE PROBLEM

THE GOAL

EVENT 1

EVENT 2

EVENT 3

EVENT 4

THE RESOLUTION

ILLUSTRATING YOUR STORY

Illustrating your book is not a requirement but remember illustrations can help tell your story more clearly and help the readers see the story as they read it.

Illustrations should be simple. Try looking through some books that have some good illustrations. This may help with ideas for your own story's illustration.

You might want to try putting your main character in each illustration. Can you find the inch worm on every page in Leo Lionni's Inch By Inch?

Sometimes an illustrator will spread a picture across two pages. This technique tends to help keep the story moving. It also gives you, the illustrator, a large space to help tell the story with pictures. Use all the page - fill it up. One Snowy Day by Ezra Keats and Nonny Hogrogian's One Fine Day are good examples of the author/illustrator making use of the entire page.

Some illustrations are tucked right around the words on a page. Jack Kent, author/illustrator of Little Pup, makes use of the entire page yet he does it in a different way than Keats and Hogrogian.

Take some time to think about illustrations - color, size and spacing can make your book stand out!

Check these books out from your school library or Normal Public Library. Read the stories and pay special note to how the illustrations add to the story.

EDITING YOUR MANUSCRIPT

Good writers edit all their writing. You should always edit what you write. Once you have written your story you are ready to edit it. Edit means you read your story carefully and mark any corrections on your rough copy before you make a final copy.

In addition to spelling and punctuation corrections, you might want to change a paragraph. You may decide you want to add some descriptive details to improve it. This is an important step in editing also. Changing a word if you think of a better one is part of editing also.

After you have read your story carefully and corrected it, call on an adult to give it another "editing job". The final step in editing is copying your manuscript neatly so it can be read by others. Manuscripts can also be typed by "outside" helpers.

Below are some questions to help you edit your work:

1. Look at your main idea sentences in your paragraphs. Do they tell what the paragraphs are about?
2. Are the detail sentences in an order that makes sense?
3. If you used time order words, did you choose the best ones?
4. Did you begin each sentence with a capital letter?
5. Did you use the correct punctuation in each sentence?
6. Did you spell all words correctly?