

## Lesson Plan - Story Planning

Re: @princeandtiger - You can't always have cheese - Page 4

Learning question:

- How do I plan to write a story?

Learning objectives:

- To understand the basic elements of a story.
- To be able to plan a story

Learning outcome:

- Produce a comprehensive story plan.

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**STARTER ACTIVITY:** One element needed to create a story is a plot ( or storyline ) .

I.E. What happens? / What takes place? What other elements do you need to create a story?

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Give a brief description of each element and say why it is important.

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Hopefully, as well as plot/storyline, you said 'characters' and 'setting.' We will come back to these later.

You might have also said, 'problem and solution' ( or 'conflict and resolution' ) .

I.E. A problem that needs to be overcome and the overcoming of that problem.

**TASK 1: PROBLEM AND SOLUTION ( CONFLICT AND RESOLUTION )** Think of some problems that need to be overcome ( for example, Prince Rishi not eating healthily or something more scary like a killer shark, alien invaders or even a deadly virus ) then think of a way that the problem could be overcome.

**EXTENSION TASK:** Explore a variety of ideas. Which would make the best story and why?

One straightforward way to plan a story can be to simply think about what happens in the beginning, the middle and the end. Decide on the problem or conflict you want for your story ( and how it could be overcome ) then think about how to start your story, how to end it and what happens in between.

**TASK 2: BEGINNING, MIDDLE, END** Divide your paper/page into 3 and write your initial ideas for what happens in the beginning, middle and end of your story. You are not bound by what you write here and can add / make changes as you write your story but having this planning will help you to keep focussed.

1. Think about how you want to begin your story. Is everything fine before the problem arrives or does the story start in the middle of the action?
2. What happens in the middle of the story? How does the action/tension rise and peak?  
How is the problem going to be overcome?
3. This leads into the end. Does it end happily?

**EXTENSION TASK:** Think of an alternative middle and/or end to your story. Why is it better than or not as good as your original idea? ( You can make changes to your plan if you would like to. )

Now you have decided on your plot/storyline and planned the beginning, middle and end, you now need to choose the setting for your story. The setting is the time and place(s) where your story is set and will take place from. Sometimes the setting is obvious; sometimes you can be creative with your choice of

setting. When it comes to time, your characters will talk and act differently, for example, if your story is set during Lockdown in 2020 or if it is set during Roman times. When it comes to place, a dark forest sets a completely different atmosphere to a sunny beach. You might have multiple locations, for example, in a city in lockdown there might be key scenes in both a school and a hospital (among other places).

**TASK 3: SETTING** Draw one or more locations where your story will/might take place from. Using descriptive words, label anything that could be relevant to the characters or plot/storyline. Next, write a descriptive paragraph of the setting you have drawn or, if you prefer, a different setting.

**EXTENSION QUESTIONS:** Why is it an appropriate setting for your story? How could it be improved?

You need to know your characters well in order to tell their stories, especially your lead characters. ( You can add other characters in later. ) Is there anything interesting/unique/special about them?

**MINI TASK:** Think about what should be included in a character profile. [ THERE IS AN EXAMPLE CHARACTER PROFILE BELOW ] Name, age, job/student, personality, physical description, health, problems, likes, dislikes, skills / talents / special powers, relevant relationships to other people. ( Could be relationships to other characters in the story or other notable people not in the story. E.G. A character could be related to The Queen but The Queen does not appear in the story. )

**TASK 4: CHARACTERS** Draw pictures of your main characters and write their character profiles. Finish your character profiles by writing a descriptive paragraph summarising them.

**EXTENSION TASKS:** 1. What else could you include in a character profile? ( E.G. Religion, relationship status. ) 2. Draw pictures and write character profiles of all of your characters. 3. Write a character profile of Tiger Raj ( Pictures below ).

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**PLENARY TASK: RECAP** Can you remember the 5 elements of story writing that we have looked at? [ Plot/storyline, setting, characters, problem/conflict and solution/resolution. ] Why is each important? Are you happy with your beginning, middle and end or would you like to change anything? Why? You can add to your beginning, middle, end plan now that you know more about your setting and characters.

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#### EXAMPLE CHARACTER PROFILE

NAME: Prince Rishi

AGE: Nearly 40 ( but won't admit it )

JOB: Wrestler / wrestling coach / university lecturer

PERSONALITY: Sometimes friendly, sometimes very intimidating

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Muscular but with a belly ( and also a #HardManHaircut )

HEALTH: Getting old; a bit overweight

PROBLEMS: Often talks about himself in third person

LIKES: Wrestling and cheese

DISLIKES: His brother's cooking

SKILLS/TALENTS: Surprisingly good wrestler

RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS: Brother of Tiger Raj







