



Writing a Short Story

Storytelling

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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Writing a short story can give you an amazing opportunity to be creative and get your imagination working. Writing a short story can give you the chance to explore lots of different topics through different perspectives. Have you ever wondered what it was like to have different experiences? Writing a short story can allow you to explore those new experiences through the eyes of your characters.

TIME

Writing a story can take anywhere from ten minutes to hours, depending on how much time you'd like to spend on this. Some stories are very short, no more than a couple sentences or a paragraph, to twenty or more pages. It's all up to you how long you'd like to make your story and that will translate to how long it will take. Some people

MATERIALS

- Notebook (approx. \$5+)
- Pen or pencil and eraser (\$2-3+)
- Optional: Laptop or tablet (\$250+)
- Optional: Speech to text program (Free+ approximate. Usually already on the device i.e. tablet)



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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please keep in mind as you go through these instructions that you don't need to follow them in order. Really, these are some ideas for you to get thinking about what you might want to write, and this order is just a guideline.
2. To start this activity, you'll probably want to come up with an idea that you'd like to write about. Sometimes, it's easier to come up with a plotline or idea for the events of the story before coming up with characters, but sometimes it's easier to think of characters first. In the resources section, you can find a list of prompts to get your ideas going.
3. Develop your characters. This is something you can do on your own on by using another Meaningful Activity guide called "Creating Characters". When you develop your characters, you might start to think about what these people are like and how they will react to the events of the story.
4. Choose a setting that you'd like the story to happen in. Maybe it's a setting you are familiar with, like your neighbourhood, or maybe it's a setting that you entirely imagine yourself.
5. Start writing! Don't worry about things being polished. You can just write whatever comes to you and explore different ideas. This is mainly about having fun and expressing yourself, not necessarily to have the "perfect" story at the end.
6. Read it over by yourself or with someone else, and see if there's anything you'd like to change or add. You can take this activity as far as you like. Maybe you'd like to end it after your first draft, which is more than all right! Or, you can get help from friends or family with editing. It's totally up to you.

RESOURCES

Include any helpful resources – like links to other instructions.

- [Short story prompts to help you get started](#)
- [Step-by-step guide on how to write a short story](#)

SUPPORTS NEEDED

You might want support in doing this activity. It can be a fun activity for you to do with a friend, family member or support worker, to get you both thinking creatively and sharing ideas. The support person

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can work with you to write ideas down on paper or into a word document on the computer. This activity can also be completed without assistance, if desired.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

This activity is mainly about having fun and expressing yourself, so don't worry if your story isn't polished or exactly like the writing you may have seen in published novels. Everyone starts somewhere, and writing is a practice that you can improve at over time. Lots of people write just because it's fun for them, and a way for them to express themselves, so maybe that is what it will be for you!