

Stone Arch Books Writing Tips for Kids

Things to think about:

- Don't worry too much about perfect spelling and grammar when you're starting your first draft. You can fix mistakes when you're done.
- While you're writing, show, don't tell. That means instead of writing "Greg was sad," you might write something like "Greg felt a tear slide down his cheek." SHOW the reader what's happening, instead of telling them.
- REVISE! That means read through what you've written and fix mistakes. No one ever writes the perfect story on their first try.
- Don't get depressed if someone doesn't like your story. Use it as a learning experience. (Even J. K. Rowling got NINE rejections before someone finally decided to publish the first Harry Potter book!)
- Try reading what you've written aloud – you might be surprised by what you find. You can catch mistakes you'd otherwise miss, plus this will help hear how your story flows. If something you've written or character dialogue sounds awkward to you when you read it aloud, chances are it might sound funny to your readers too.
- Ask readers you trust (parents, teachers, and friends) to read your story when you're done. Listen to their compliments, but make sure that they also give you helpful feedback—things that were confusing to them, or things that they thought needed to be changed.
- Choose a great title. Come up with a list of five potential titles and decide which one best works with your story.
- The most important thing you can do to become a great writer? READ! Reading is the best way to learn to write.

Important parts of a story:

- **SETTING:** Where your story takes place. Where is it? Is it a real place or an imagined place? What is the weather like there? What kinds of people, animals, and plants live there? What kind of buildings are there?
- **CHARACTERS:** Who is in your story. There are usually many characters in a story, but only one or two main characters. Are they human, animal, or something else? What are they like? What are their likes and dislikes?
- **PLOT:** What happens in your story. Think about what your characters will go through. What challenges will they face? How will they be different at the end of your story? How does your character solve problems?

To get started – Brainstorm!

- Create a character/s – make sure to include as much detail as possible
- Give the character a home in a town or city.
- Give the character a problem – this is part of your plot.
- Come up with an outline for your story. Sometimes it's easier to organize your thoughts and ideas when they're laid out on paper. Nothing is off limits; you can always cut things out later. Plus, this way you won't forget anything!
- Now write!