

Tested by kids!

Writers & Café

My Name Is : _____

and I am a writer!

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Writer's Café
Workbook





Writer's Café Notebook

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Writer's Café Rules

RESPECT
ENCOURAGE
SHARE
HELP



WHAT MAKES A GOOD STORY?

Think about your favourite book or story.

What do you like about it? What makes it special?

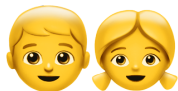
WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT PARTS OF A GOOD STORY?



Setting



Conflict



Characters



Solution

Let's look at the opening sentence from a famous book:

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon.

- 1. Underline the character.
- 2. Circle the setting.

This author is establishing some of the important parts of the story right off the bat. Why is this good practice?



WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF WRITING A BOOK OR A STORY?



Idea



Share Again



Draft



Polish



Share



Submit



Edit



Publish

Why do you think each stage is important?



Idea → Brainstorming

Where do ideas come from?

Let's go back to that opening sentence:

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down
the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way
toward the lagoon.

Now, use this sentence as a starting point for a brand new story.

What would happen if you changed the character and the setting?

The _____ with _____ lowered
_____ down
the last few feet of rock and began to pick _____
way toward the _____.

You could even change some of the action and details.

Let's brainstorm together!

Think of some settings instead of a “lagoon”.

Think of some characters instead of a “boy with fair hair”.

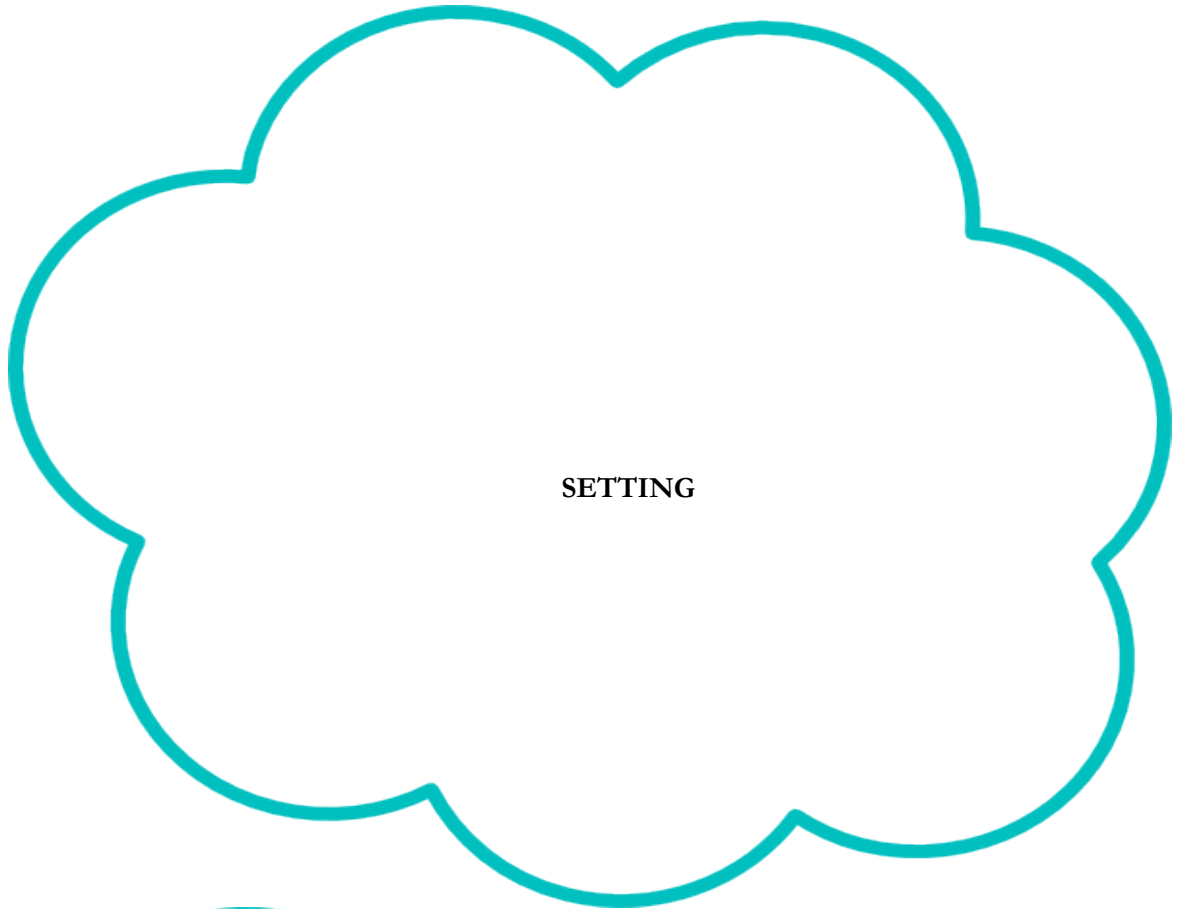
What about conflict? What kind of problem could the character face?

Think about what kind of story you want to write. Is it going to be happy or sad? Scary or funny? Romantic or silly? Do you have ideas about how the conflict will lead to a solution or ending?

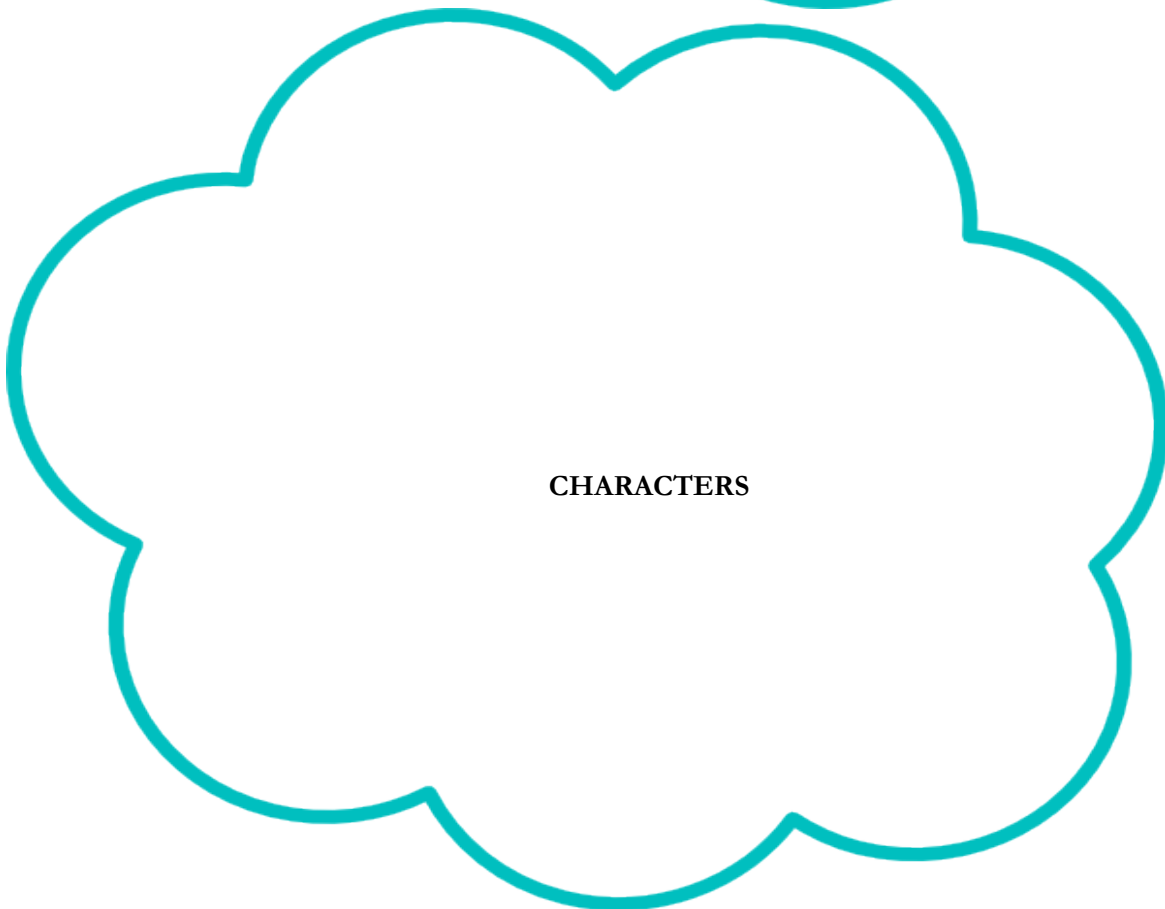
NOW, use the brainstorming clouds on the next page to list your ideas. Choose your favourites from the ideas the class brainstormed and start putting those ideas together.

When you're brainstorming your characters, think about how they will look so you can describe them well. Put those ideas in the CHARACTER cloud.

The same for your setting: Where is it? What does it look like? What does it smell like? Is it light or dark? What season is it? All these details will help make your story special.



SETTING



CHARACTERS



CONFLICT



SOLUTION

 **Your writing voice is:**

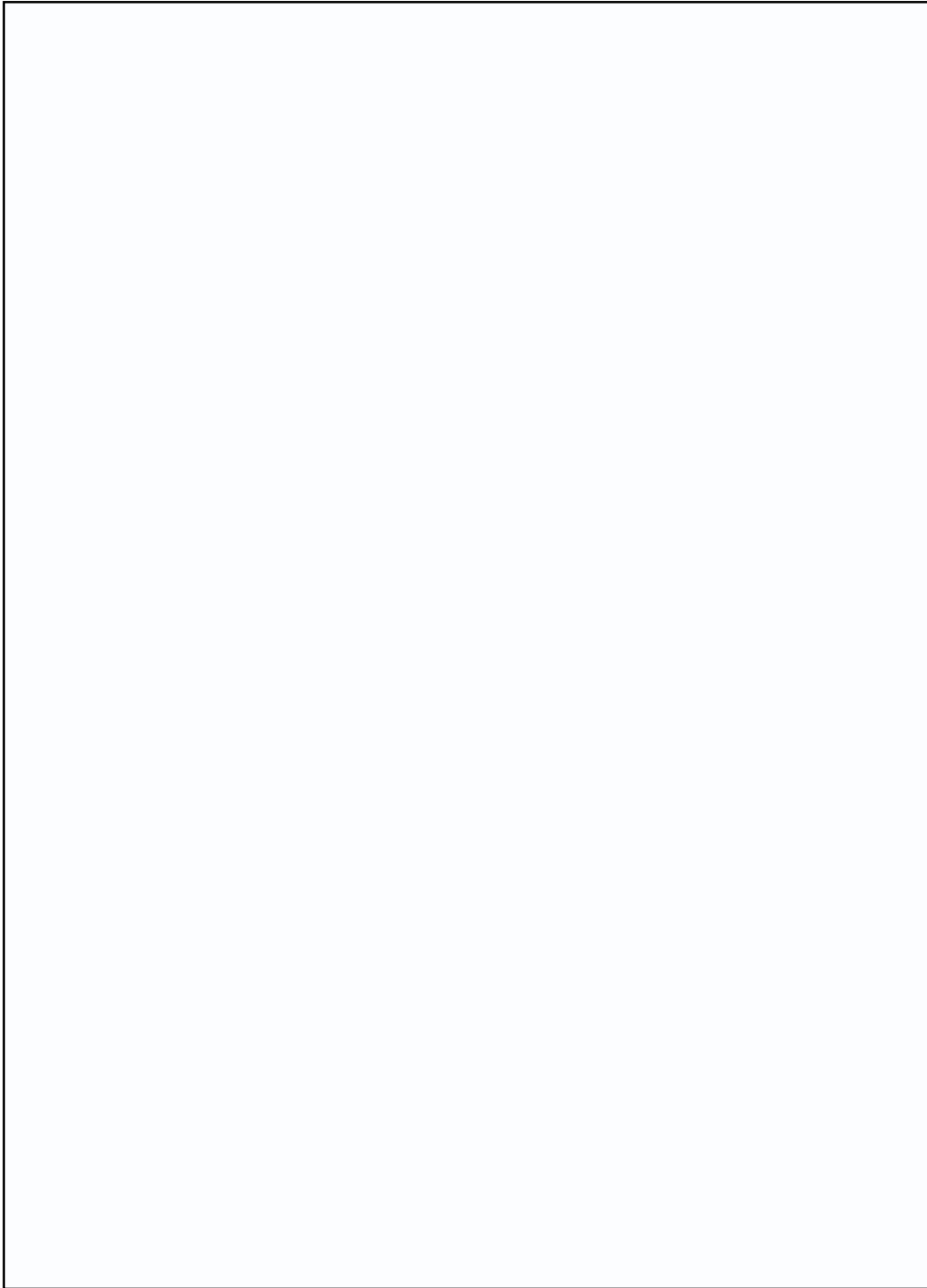
your unique way of looking at the world.

You are the only person who can write the story
you're going to tell even if everyone else started
with the same idea.

*The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet
of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon.*

Even if you only change a few details,
you are already making this story your own! Now write your version
of the new starting sentence based on your brainstorming ideas.

Make a list or draw a picture about yourself
and what makes you unique in the box.





HOW DO YOU WRITE A DRAFT?



Use your ideas for **SETTING, CHARACTERS, CONFLICT, & SOLUTION** to tell your story.



Don't spend too much time on your spelling or grammar — just get the story written **THEN** you can go back and fix things.



Remember to **describe** your characters and your setting near the beginning. Use juicy words to help your reader picture what is happening.



Title your draft, but don't feel stuck! If your ideas take you in a different direction than you expected you can always change your title before your final draft.



When you write your first draft it can be helpful to use every other line so you leave room for editing notes later.

WHAT IS A 'JUICY' WORD and why does it matter?

A juicy word is a word that _____

WHAT ARE SOME **JUICY WORD** EXAMPLES?



IT'S TIME TO WRITE!



Your story doesn't have to be long, but it does have to have a beginning, a middle, and an end.



Think of a title and write it at the top of your draft page.



Settle in for some focused writing time!

Lined writing area consisting of 30 horizontal lines for text entry.



IS YOUR STORY DONE?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Did I introduce my characters
& describe them well?
- Did I talk about the setting?
- Was there a conflict?
- Did my characters find a solution?
- Will a reader be satisfied?
Did I answer all their questions?



WHAT IS EDITING?

Editing is making your story the best it can be.

- My sentences start with capital letters.
- My sentences end with a punctuation mark.
- I used commas in lists and to break up different thoughts in the same sentence.
- I spelled the words I know correctly.
- I included juicy words and sentences.



WHY IS PUNCTUATION IMPORTANT?

**WHAT PUNCTUATION
MARKS DO YOU KNOW?**

CAN YOU ADD PUNCTUATION MARKS TO THIS PARAGRAPH & CIRCLE THE JUICY WORDS?

The palms that still stood made a green roof_ covered on the underside with a quivering tangle of reflections from the lagoon_ Ralph hauled himself on to this platform_ noted the coolness and shade_ shut one eye_ and decided that the shadows on his body were really green_ He picked his way to the seaward edge of the platform and stood looking down into the water_ It was clear to the bottom and bright with the efflorescence of tropical weed and coral_ A school of tiny_ glittering fish flicked hither and thither_ Ralph spoke to himself_ sounding the brass strings of delight_
Whizzoh _



READY TO EDIT?



Use a different coloured pen and go through your story carefully. Fix mistakes, add juicy words, and make sure you used the right punctuation.



When you're ready for peer editing, find someone else who's ready and trade with them. Use sticky notes to make comments on their story. Don't write directly on their paper!

Now, neatly copy out your story with all the corrections. You may use the back pages in this book for that, or you may ask your teacher for fresh paper so you don't have to flip back and forth in the workbook.



READY TO SHARE?

For most writers, their goal is to write a story that other people will enjoy. When you finish a story, it's good to share it. You never know, you just might become someones favourite author!

Let others in the group read your story, or better yet, read it to them!

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Every writer has their own voice and ideas, and this is why books and stories are so interesting. Even when every writer in the room begins with the same sentence, every single story will be wildly different because:

Stories are as unique as the people who write them!

Lined writing area with 25 horizontal lines.

A series of horizontal lines for writing, spaced evenly down the page.

Lined writing area with 26 horizontal lines.

Lined writing area consisting of 22 horizontal lines.

Blank lined writing area consisting of 28 horizontal lines.

Lined writing area with 30 horizontal lines.

Lined writing area with horizontal lines for text entry.