

# A Recipe for Story-writing

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Writing a story does not need to be hard. In fact, it can be as simple as following a recipe. If you know what ingredients to put in, you can cook up an interesting story in no time. To write a story, you'll need these ingredients:

- **Who**
- **Where**
- **When**
- **What**
- **How**

It's your job as the storyteller to figure out exactly what each of these ingredients are, and how to put them together.

## **Who – The Main Character**

Every story has a main character, also called the hero or “protagonist.” Who is your main character? Is it you? Is it a horse, a cat, or an eagle? Is it an alien from Mars?

What does your main character look like? How old are they? What is their personality like? What do they like or dislike?

## **Where and When – The Setting**

Every story has to happen somewhere and sometime. This is called the setting.

Where does your story take place? In your house? In your school? On the moon? Under the ocean?

And when does your story take place? In the past, present or future? Does the story take place all in one day or over a period of time?

## **What – The Problem**

Every good story has a challenge or obstacle the main character must face and overcome. The bigger the problem and the harder it will be for the hero to resolve, the more interesting the story.

What is your main character's problem that they must overcome?

## **How – The Resolution**

For a story to have a satisfying ending the main character needs to solve the problem or overcome the obstacle. In the best stories, the hero solves the problem by changing and growing and becoming the kind of person that can solve the problem, or by finding what they thought was a weakness was actually a strength they can use to solve the problem.

How does your main character solve the problem?

## **Putting the Ingredients Together**

Now that you've figured out what ingredients your story needs, it's time to put them together. Here's how. Your story will need three parts:

- a beginning
- a middle
- an ending

### **The Beginning**

The beginning is where you introduce the main character, the setting and the problem. You can introduce these in any order you like, but it's always good to introduce the problem as early as possible.

### **The Middle**

The middle of the story is where the main character tries to solve the problem but fails, or maybe even makes the problem worse. The hero may think they know the best way to solve the problem, only to find out that they are on the wrong track.

### **The Ending**

The end of the story is where the main character finally solves the problem. Hopefully they find the "real" solution, rather than what they thought was the solution earlier in the story.

### **Things to Remember**

Don't worry about making it perfect as you go along. Write as fast as you can, and feel free to be creative.

After you are done writing your first draft, go back and read it over, asking yourself what you can do to make your story better.

Have fun!