

# Narrative Writing Tips



- What can we do to make our story writing more exciting to read?
- Use these tips in your writing to help.



# Writing Tip 1

Having too many characters can be a disadvantage as it may be difficult for your reader to distinguish between them.

Try to stick to two or three characters and really concentrate on letting your reader know what they are like by describing their appearance and revealing their personality.



# Writing Tip 2

When describing your character's appearance, try using a 'sentence of three'.

For example:

Mrs Maples was wearing a shiny overcoat, black wellingtons and a peaked hat.

**Or,**

Buster McVey had slick, black hair, brooding eyes and hands like shovels.



# Writing Tips 3

Describe your characters personality

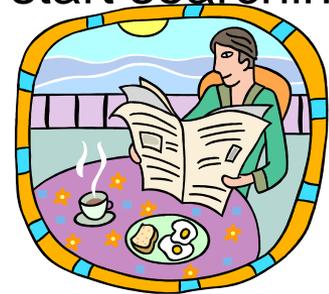
Use an 'ing' clause to add on to a simple sentence to describe what someone is doing or thinking. This is called a 'supporting action'.  
Look at these, which tells you more:

Tom ate his breakfast. **Or**

Tom ate his breakfast, wondering where he should start searching.

Mr Potts began to study the map. **Or**

Mr Potts began to study the map, noticing that there was a forest in Bigham.



# Writing Tip 4



Remember:

1. **The beginning** where you introduce the characters, set the scene and set up the problem.
2. **The middle** in which the hero has to deal with the problem.
3. **The end** where the characters sort out the problem (or not!) and the story finishes.

# Writing Tip 5

Use a good story starter to grip your readers attention. You could:

1. Start with action
2. Use speech to introduce a character
3. Describe the setting



# Writing Tip 6

Editing your story is a very important part of the process.

No-one gets it right first time around!

Make sure you read it through carefully and check:

1. Will your story makes sense to your reader and will it interest them?
2. Are your characters believable?
3. Have you given a satisfactory ending?
4. Are your spellings correct?
5. Make sure you have used a range of punctuation , . ! “ “ ? ( )  
(Look at your notes to help you).
6. Long paragraphs can be off putting. Start a new paragraph for:
  - A change of time, e.g. Early the next morning...
  - A change of place e.g. On the other side of the mountain stood...
  - A change of action e.g. At that moment the lights went out.
  - A change of character e.g. Unexpectedly, Dr Townley rounded the corner.



# Writing Tip 7

Don't forget to give your story a catchy title.

This is easier to do at the end because a good title might come to you

as you are writing your story.

Best of luck and enjoy writing!

