

StorySheet: HOW TO USE STORY SHEETS

Great stories don't just happen - writers have to think and plan in advance to figure out who their characters are, where the story will take place, and how to make the events of the story exciting and interesting.

StorySheets are designed to help you plan and think through your story. You can print them out and fill them in, or download the fillable PDF versions and complete them on a computer. (You'll also want a notebook or laptop to actually write your story, using your StorySheets to guide you.)



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HOW TO READ A STORY SHEET

Boxes with a grey background indicate stuff you should read

A pointy box indicates one idea leading to another...

Boxes with curved edges indicate where you should write.

...like this: a place where you should write

WHERE DO I WRITE MY ACTUAL STORY?

StorySheets are just tools to help you *plan* your amazing story. You'll need a place to *write* your actual story: in a journal or notebook, on a computer or laptop, in a binder, or on a pad of paper.

Whatever you use, make sure it (1) makes you happy when you write in it and (2) keeps your story organized and safe.

WHAT ORDER SHOULD I FOLLOW?

There is no wrong way to use the StorySheets - you can choose to fill out just the ones you need, or go through them all, one by one.

We suggest that you start with *Gathering Ideas*, *Creating Characters* and *Building A Setting*. These StorySheets will help you assemble your ideas and create a foundation for your story. Once you've completed your *Story Map*, it's time to start writing your story. Grab your favourite journal or laptop and start writing your first line with *Hook Your Reader*. Keep writing as you develop the *Problems and Suspense* that will drive your story. Improve your story with *Details Matter*, and then finish it off with *Excellent Endings*.

- 1 Gathering ideas
- 2 Creating characters
- 3 Build a Setting
- 4 Story Map
- 5 Hook Your Reader

Start writing your story

- 6 Problems and Obstacles

Write more of your story

- 7 Details Matter

Write more and edit your story

- 8 Excellent Endings

Finish your story

Date:

Name: