

# StorySheet: PROBLEMS AND OBSTACLES

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In order to make stories interesting, authors often create a big problem for their character that stops them from achieving their goal right away. The character tries different solutions to the problem lots of different ways, meeting obstacles and failing again and again until finally succeeding! Challenging your character like this builds tension and creates suspense. It's a great way of pulling your reader into the story. You can create, problems, solutions and obstacles by exploring your character's fears and weaknesses, or the environment they are in, to create obstacles that make the story interesting as they try to solve their big problem.



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My character and setting...

My character's wants...

My character's big problem?  
Fears? Weaknesses?

When an obstacle happens,  
my character feels...

What are some solutions to the problem your character could try, and obstacles that might stop them?

*I try to solve the problem by...*

*But it doesn't work because...*

Remember to describe how your character **feels** and reacts as their problem develops; do they crouch in a corner and cry? Maybe their eyes are wide open with fear and they are shivering. Or perhaps they are feeling confident and brave. By sharing how our characters **feel** we can connect to our readers emotions, helping them relate to the character and better understand the story.

Date:

Name:

# StorySheet: A SLIMY SAMPLE PROBLEM

6

Check out Gavyn's story, 'The Slim Family,' about a slimy blob that just wants to make friends. Gavyn used goals, problems and obstacles to write a suspenseful (and funny) story!



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My character and setting...

BUDDY, A FRIENDLY  
SLIME BLOB WHO LIVES  
IN A HUMAN CITY

My character's wants...

TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH  
THE HUMANS

My character's big problem?  
Fears? Weaknesses?

HUMANS ARE AFRAID OF  
HIM, AND BUDDY ISN'T  
GOOD AT MAKING  
FRIENDS

When an obstacle happens,  
my character feels...

SAD - CRIES, SLOUCHES  
TO THE GROUND  
LONELY - SITS BY  
HIMSELF

What are some solutions to the problem your character could try, and obstacles that might stop them?

*I try to solve the problem by...*

BUDDY TRIES TO DO MAGIC TRICKS FOR HIS CLASSMATES

HE MIGHT TRY TO MAKE FRIENDS BY GIVING PIGGY BACK RIDES

HE COULD TRY TO FIND OTHER SLIME KIDS TO PLAY WITH

*But it doesn't work because...*

IT DOESN'T WORK OF SLIME MAGIC

KIDS STICK TO HIM BECAUSE HE'S SLIMY

ONLY HUMANS IN THIS TOWN

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