

Every story needs a great main character. Encourage your child to be creative in their thinking - their character can be absolutely anything. Story Studio writers have told stories featuring leading characters who range from a superhero taco to a half narwhal/half puppy.



storystudio.ca

Have your child draw or design their character with details, and help them answer key questions (below) about their character to develop a background or biography. You may also choose to use the StorySheet to record this information and design the character.

1. What could this character be?
2. What is their name?
3. What is this character good at/ not so good at?
4. What are they afraid of?
5. Most importantly, what could this characters' goal be? What is something they want to happen?

Have fun and get creative to help your writer dig into their main character! You may have your child dress up as their character, or build the character out of recycled materials, Lego/plasticine or other items from home. Interview your child as they take the role of their character. This allows your child to develop a deeper understanding of their character. You might ask questions such as: *What is your proudest moment/greatest accomplishment? What is a secret you never told anyone? What do you hope to do with your life? What might stop you? What would you do if you had a million dollars?* These extra activities will help your child get to know their character really well, which will help in brainstorming the rest of the stories events.



ONE-OF-A-KIND CHARACTERS!

We strongly encourage characters that are the learner's own creation, simply because their ideas are often the best. Their characters should be unique to them, and not taken directly from a movie, show, video game or other book. Of course, it's natural for kids to want to imitate the stories they love (eg. 'I want to write a story about a school for wizards!') Encourage your child to think 'outside of the box' of typical characters. If your writer is stuck on rewriting an existing story, try getting them to combine ideas from their favourite movies or books to create brand new characters. (For example, what about a school for dinosaur magicians?) Often combining a few different elements can help 'unstick' a young writer from repeating a story that's already been told..

MORE THAN ONE MAIN CHARACTER?

We're writing short stories, so we encourage kids to just focus on one main character, who might still encounter other characters along the way. Ask your writer, "If this were a movie, which character would the camera be focused on most of the time?" That's your main character.

StorySheet: CREATE A CHARACTER

#2

Your main character is going to be the focus of the story, so you want them to be interesting. You want your reader to care about what your character wants. You want your reader to be scared if your character is in danger. We're going to help you make an awesome character. Start by answering some of the questions below and doodling a picture of your character. Remember, these are just rough notes and ideas - you can't go wrong, and you should be as crazy and imaginative as you want. How about a taco spy? A talking pencil? Dream it up!



storystudio.ca

DRAW ME HERE

Here are a few words to describe where I live:

Here are a few words to describe what I look like:

I'm, afraid of...

My name is:

My best friend is:

because...

Shh! My secret is:

Something I'm awesome at:

In this story, I really want to...

Something I find hard:

Date:

Name: