

# Grown Up's Guide: GATHERING IDEAS

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The trick with gathering ideas for your child's story is to combine their wild imagination with real-life experiences that will provide detail and power to their writing. One way to do this is to encourage your child to write down impressions of what they see, emotions they feel and real events in their lives. Writing them down allows us to capture and reflect on these moments, and use them in future stories. The 'Gathering Ideas' StorySheet can be downloaded to provide a framework for organizing their thoughts. A regular notebook will also work well. Or, if your child prefers the use of technology, perhaps an App such as Evernote or Audionote will be useful to them.



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On the StorySheet, you will see that we have separated these ideas into three categories, further explained below.

**Experiences:** Encourage your child to think about big moments or events in their life. For example: a big family trip, winning a championship game, welcoming a new sibling, or moving to a new place. Perhaps they have struggled to make a team, or remember a fall or accident. All these things can become significant events in stories for different characters.

**Emotions:** Have your child think about times in which they felt big emotions. What was happening at the time and what reactions did their body have to the emotion. How did it feel to be alone or afraid? How did their bodies express sadness when they lost something? When we describe these emotions in stories, readers become more connected to the characters.

**Examples:** Ask your child to list their favourite books, movies or television shows. We are easily influenced by the things around us that we enjoy the most. If your child is struggling to think of a story idea or character, encourage them to take parts and pieces from stories and movies that they love to create something new of their own. For example, if your child loves Pokemon, have him or her create a new Pokemon that has the best parts of all their favourite characters.

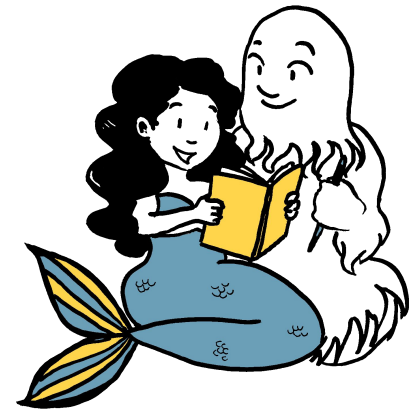
This should be a very fun and light process for your child. If they are having trouble thinking back on their experiences and emotions, encourage them to go outside with their notebook or to a quiet place on their own to think. Encourage them to ask family and friends about their experiences and emotions, or questions if they can't remember things. Most of all - have fun, and maybe you'll learn something new too!

## GETTING STARTED

Getting your child started on writing a story can seem like a very daunting task. You may wish to begin by reading a story together - an old childhood favourite or one they know well. Talk about the character in the story and the problem they have. Discuss what you learn about the character throughout the events in the story.

You can find a few of our favourite stories at:

<https://www.storystudio.ca/yourstories/>



# StorySheet: *GATHERING IDEAS*

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Gathering ideas for a story can seem like a big task. The trick is to combine our imaginations with what we experience in the world around us-then stories will jump right out! One way authors come up with their story ideas is by carrying a notebook with them all the time. They write down impressions of what they see, emotions that they feel and real events as they occur. Our whole lives are filled with moments that will make fantastic stories. It's just a matter of catching these moments by writing them down. In each box below, list things and moments that are significant or important to you.



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## **EXPERIENCES**

Big events in your life

## **EMOTIONS**

Big emotions you have felt

## **EXAMPLES**

Books, movies that you love

Date:

Name: