

A Guide to Writing Narrative (Stories)

- When writing a story think about the genre of the story. Is it a detective story, a fairy tale, a ghost story or something else? The storyline needs to fit the type of story you are writing.
- Think about what settings and characters would fit into the type of story you have been asked to write. Don't just use an old man or a little boy. These could be characters in any story. Make your characters fit into your story.
- Also try to include some appropriate vocabulary. Think about what words and phrases are particularly suited to the genre. Ghost story: eerie, misty, spine chilling

Sci Fi: asteroid, mission, launch, extra terrestrial

Things to include:

- ✓ A great beginning. Find a really interesting way to start your story. The very first paragraph must really, really grab the reader's attention.
- ✓ Description of the setting and the characters throughout the story. (Don't just write one paragraph telling me everything about the characters - space it out with the action in between.)

Characters: Make your characters believable. You want your audience to either love them or hate them. Describe what characters look like and describe their personality. Make sure that your description tells the reader important things about the character. Try to show what your character is like by the way they act and the things that they say.

Setting: Describe the settings in your story using all of your senses. Describe what the characters can see, hear, smell, feel and sometimes even taste.

- ✓ Use all the things that are important in every piece of writing. (Adjectives, adverbs, openers, connectives, paragraphs, punctuation etc)
- ✓ Stories usually have some kind of problem/dilemma/issue in them. Then the end of your story shows how the story gets sorted out/resolved.
- ✓ Make your ending really interesting too. Never ever end a story with 'and they all went home' or 'he woke up and it was all a dream'. Only use 'and they lived happily ever after' if it is a traditional fairy tale.