

# Let's Get Started! Pencil to Paper!

*Writing for creativity and purpose! So many thoughts! So many directions to go in thought!* A great way to get started is to use a document to help formulate a pattern of thought to organize what the story will be about and what needs to be done.

A worksheet should be introduced to the activity session as a tool not a crutch. It will show or describe some of the details needed to get a start on the story. The questions and answers stimulate the imagination and, hopefully, help get ideas flowing. Oftentimes words generate picture images in the writer's mind, so encourage artistic imagery also.

1. The work sheet design usually begins with the question of a **Theme**.

**Theme:** A big idea that will drive the whole story.

- What is the story about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who will be telling the story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. A **Point of View** is necessary so that the reader can follow along and understand why the narrative is flowing as it does.

**Point of View:** Present the story as the 'first person,' 'second person,' or 'third person.'

- First Person: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second Person: \_\_\_\_\_
- Third Person: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The theme leads to **Characters** either acting throughout the story or telling the story.

**Characters:** Is there a good guy? A bad guy? Friends who work together?

- Describe each character added to the worksheet for the story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Give them a name. \_\_\_\_\_
- Describe their appearance. \_\_\_\_\_
- What type of personality do they have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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4. Where does the story take place? A **Setting** must be established so that the reader understands the situation and the dialog or actions from the characters provides a landscape.

**Setting:** Location of events and time they occur

- Describe the location of events \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - What time do things happen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Is everything smooth sailing in the story or is there some problem or trouble that needs to be resolved? A **Conflict** is a good approach to making the story more interesting and gives the reader something to think about too.

**Conflict:** A challenge that must be overcome to bring a conclusion to the story.

- Describe a challenge, problem, or trouble involved in the story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Pulling all of the details and ideas you have as a writer means that a **Plot** must be defined.

**Plot:** How do all the characters interact in the telling of the story?

- As the story unfolds, how does the plot change or become more involved? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The template for the story being told involves a **Beginning, Middle, and Ending**. This allows a story to build during the writing, but also settle into an ending that is believable and makes sense.

**Beginning, Middle, and Ending:**

- Describe how the story begins \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Describe the middle of the story by providing a turning point \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Describe the ending of the story as a resolution \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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8. A story usually brings out the Emotions in the reader. What emotions will be shown during the story to cause the characters to interact and the reader to as well.

**Emotions:** Describe the emotions being used in the story: sadness, mean, comical, laughable ...

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