



12 Tips for Writing a Story in a Short Time



- ❑ Characters: Use only two main characters, one male and one female (one 'he' and 'she' so you won't get mixed up). Try developing a couple of characters you enjoy writing about in advance and practise putting them in different scenarios.
- ❑ Plan: Your 'beginning' (characters, setting, some sort of problem) and 'end'. Keep it simple.
- ❑ Beginning: Keep this short. Don't forget the main part of the story is the middle (the problem and the resolution). Get your story moving as soon as possible.
- ❑ Resolution: When you know your ending, find a way of linking it to the beginning to make a good link.
- ❑ Setting: Keep you reader informed about any changes in the setting as the story goes on. Tell your reader what is changing.
- ❑ Characters: Remember to keep mentioning how the characters look and feel throughout the story.
- ❑ Speech: Use the speech to carry the story. Make the characters talk about what is happening. Remember 'said' can be boring.
- ❑ Sentences: Remember to vary your sentence lengths - check if you have begun them in different ways - look out for 'they - they - they'.
- ❑ Last line: Make it count - neat and punchy!
- ❑ Check! Leave five minutes to read it through - can you add any description or change any weak words? Pretend you have never read the story - does it need more detail?
- ❑ Under your breath: Read it aloud - use your reading to check the punctuation - do you need a comma or question mark? Watch out for direct and indirect speech.
- ❑ Spelling: Look at the words - can you see any spelling mistakes? Make any corrections that you can.