

Choice A

Story ideas - three elements

Choose a set of three elements and write a story that contains all three of them! (in at least 250 - 400 words)

1. A stolen ring, fear of spiders, and a sinister stranger.
2. A taxi, an old enemy, and Valentine's Day.
3. Identical twins, a party invitation, and a locked closet.
4. A broken wristwatch, peppermints, and a hug that goes too far.
5. Aerobics, a secret diary, and something unpleasant under the bed.
6. An ex-boyfriend, a pair of binoculars, and a good-luck charm.
7. An annoying boss, a bikini, and a fake illness.
8. The first day of school, a love note, and a recipe with a significant mistake.
9. A horoscope, makeup, and a missing tooth.
10. A campfire, a scream, and a small lie that gets bigger and bigger.

Choice B

Story Ideas Kit

Choose one element from each column to come up with a story idea. Then write your short story of at least 250-400 words. Mix and match!

<i>Setting</i>	<i>Trait</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Situation</i>
On a ski trip,	a shy	librarian	accidentally reveals a secret.
In a stuck elevator,	a deceitful	babysitter	falls in love with the wrong person.
At a costume party,	an incredibly attractive	novelist	discovers evidence of a crime.
In a moonlit graveyard,	a sarcastic	ballet dancer	is visited by a ghost.
In a natural history museum,	a jealous	psychiatrist	seeks revenge.
Backstage at the theater,	a gullible	tattoo artist	succumbs to temptation.
On a rooftop,	a misunderstood	burglar	receives shocking news.
In an orphanage,	a famous	taxi driver	loses something or someone.
In a hair salon,	a paranoid	police officer	tells a dangerous lie.
On a private jet,	an obsessive-compulsive	bodyguard	is kidnapped.
In a maze,	a spoiled	animal trainer	makes a sacrifice.
At a police station,	a clever	actor	realizes that things are not as they seem.

The maximum length of your story is not given !

Evaluation criteria

The basis of evaluation will be based on the followings :

You'll get extra points for **nice illustrations** of your story.

While writing consider the followings as well as your **grammar, spelling, punctuation** and **text cohesion**.

Plot

Is the plot believable ?

Is the ending logical ?

Does the plot hold your interest ?

Is the conflict subtle and complex ?

Theme

Told to reveal theme or just for entertainment ?

Present new ideas? Or an old cliché ?

Is the theme valid to you?

Does it express truth?

Point of View

What is the point of view?

Is it the best one?

Does the point of view switch ?

Does the point of view help you understand characters better?

Does the point of view help you learn important information?

Tone

What is the authors attitude towards the characters or world?

How does the author convey that tone?

Do the emotions in the story seem natural or unnatural?

Characters

Are the characters realistic ?

Are the motives clear ?

Are the main characters rounded or flat ?

Are the main characters dynamic or static ?

Setting

Does the story have a recognizable setting ?

Is it believable ?

What does the setting reveal about the characters ?

What mood does the setting evoke ?

Style

Is the story well written?

Are the words chosen carefully?

Do the people talk as real people talk?

Just a few helpful questions to create your character(s) :

Let me give you some tips to help you to create an excellent piece of writing

Once you have your idea, how can you go about turning it into a story? Some suggestions:

- Use our **character profile questionnaire** to develop your main character into a 3-dimensional person.
- Identify what the **main problem** facing your character in the story is. What **steps** will the character take to overcome the problem? What **complications** might arise when your character takes them? Make a list of ideas. If you like, write them on notecards and start playing with the order.
- Imagine one of the scenes in your head and start writing it. It doesn't have to be the first scene in the story. You can go back and write the story beginning later. Start with whatever scene is clearest in your imagination. Then move on to the next scene.

Character Profile Questionnaires

Writing Character Profiles - Questionnaire 1 (Adult Characters)

1. Name:
 2. Age:
 3. General physical description:
 4. Hometown:
 5. Type of home/ neighborhood:
 6. Relationship status:
 7. Current family:
 8. Family background (parents, previous marriages, etc.):
 9. Friends:
 10. Other close relationships:
 11. Relationship with men:
 12. Relationship with women:
 13. Job:
 14. Dress style:
 15. Religion:
 16. Attitude to religion:
 17. Favorite pastimes:
 18. Hobbies:
 19. Favorite sports:
 20. Favorite foods:
 21. Strongest positive personality trait:
 22. Strongest negative personality trait:
 23. Sense of humor:
 24. Temper:
 25. Consideration for others:
 26. How other people see him/her:
 27. Opinion of him/herself:
 28. Other traits, especially those to be brought out in story:
 29. Ambitions:
 30. Philosophy of life:
 31. Most important thing to know about this character:
 32. Will readers like or dislike this character, and why?
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Writing Character Profiles - Questionnaire 2 (Child Characters)

1. Name:
 2. Age:
 3. Birthday:
 4. General physical description:
 5. Hometown:
 6. Type of home/ neighborhood:
 7. Father's name, background, and occupation:
 8. Mother's name, background, and occupation:
 9. Brothers and sisters:
 10. Position in family:
 11. Other close relatives:
 12. Family relationships:
 13. Special friends:
 14. Enemies:
 15. Influential person or event:
 16. Grade in school:
 17. Attitude toward school:
 18. Grades:
 19. Favorite pastimes:
 20. Hobbies (music/art/reading material):
 21. Favorite sports:
 22. Favorite foods:
 23. Dress style:
 24. Religion:
 25. Attitude toward religion:
 26. Relationship with boys:
 27. Relationship with girls:
 28. Leader or follower:
 29. Strongest positive personality trait:
 30. Strongest negative personality trait:
 31. Sense of humor:
 32. Temper:
 33. Consideration for others:
 34. How other people see him/her:
 35. Opinion of him/herself:
 36. Other traits, especially those to be brought out in story:
 37. Ambitions:
 38. Philosophy of life:
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39. Most important thing to know about character:
 40. Will readers like or dislike this character, and why?
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Writing Character Profiles - Additional Questions

1. If your character has a job, is he or she good at it? Does he or she like it?
 2. What are your character's bad habits?
 3. If you asked about his or her greatest dream, what would your character tell you?
 4. What's a secret dream that he or she wouldn't tell you about?
 5. What kind of person does your character wish he or she could be? What is stopping him or her?
 6. What is your character afraid of? What keeps him or her up at night?
 7. What does your character think is his or her worst quality?
 8. What do other people think your character's worst quality is?
 9. What is a talent your character thinks he or she has but is very wrong about?
 10. What did his or her childhood home look like?
 11. Who was his or her first love?
 12. What's the most terrible thing that ever happened to him/her?
 13. What was his/her dream growing up? Did he/she achieve this dream? If so, in what ways was it not what the character expected? If your character never achieved the dream, why not?
 14. In what situation would your character become violent?
 15. In what situation would your character act heroic?
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