



STORY COMES FROM CHARACTER

Get to know your characters and they will give you ideas for your story.

Drawing your characters forces you to think about them and will spark ideas. **Write labels** as you draw and think about what this person **LOVES** and **HATES**. What are their **SKILLS** and **WEAKNESSES**. Do they have a **SECRET**?

Knowing what your hero WANTS will help you identify their main enemy – the person who will do the most to stop them from achieving their goal: **THE VILLAIN!**

For example, perhaps your hero wants to play in goal for the school team, but has a rival for the position? Maybe she desperately wants a dog, but the family cat has other ideas!

STORIES GET GOOD WHEN THINGS GO BAD FOR YOUR CHARACTERS

If your hero gets what they want too easily it makes for a dull story. It's much more exciting when things go wrong.

If you know your character's fears and weaknesses you can use these against them!

For example: Your hero might be scared of heights maybe, or spiders. Perhaps they are shy and don't like talking to people. Whatever it is, make sure they have to **FACE THIS FEAR** in order to get what they want!

It sounds cruel, but this will give your story **DRAMA** and **CONFLICT**, and make your readers care what happens. When we see people stuck in a difficult situation we have to read on to make sure they survive!

USE THE FIVE SENSES

A good way to **help readers feel like they are IN the story**, almost walking beside the characters, is to let the main character tell us what they can **SEE**, **HEAR**, **SMELL**, **TASTE** and most importantly, how they **FEEL!**

For example, if your character was about to play in a really important football match you could write something like:

We line up in the tunnel. I can see the pitch up ahead glowing green under the floodlights. The noise of the crowd sounds like distant thunder above our heads. The smell of fried onions wafting in from the hot-dog stand is making my stomach churn – or maybe it's nerves? My mouth is dry with fear, my legs like jelly. I'm not sure I can even walk out there, let alone kick a football!

WRITE THE STORY THAT YOU WANT TO READ

The best thing about writing your own stories is that **you're in charge!** If you like stuff that makes you laugh, write something funny. Maybe you're a horror fan who will write a tale so terrifying your readers will be scared to turn off the light! Perhaps talking unicorns in space is your thing? Great – write about that! Have fun with it.

PLAY THE WHAT IF? GAME

To spark some ideas, get a blank sheet of paper and write **WHAT IF?** in the centre. Then write as many ideas as you can in five minutes. Try not to judge – just write down what comes into your head. Afterwards, have a look at what you've got and pick the best ones to use in your story.

