

# Creative Writing Tips

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# Inspiration

Before writing or planning, you will of course need to find something to write about. Easier said than done! If you're stuck for inspiration why not try...

1. Reading other creative writing pieces
2. Read quotes on a certain topic (e.g. if you're story is going to be about personal growth, torment, or discovery see what people have to say about it!)
3. Interview people on a certain topic and see if anything they say piques your interest
4. Think of a concept and make it abstract
5. Think of a solution to a problem and work backwards - what happened before order was reinstated

# Character

A great story always revolves around a great character. When crafting a character consider:

1. Make them visual - what do they look like?
2. Who are they? What do they do in their typical week?
3. Do they have a quirky trait that makes them endearing or annoying?
4. What is their perspective on things? Are they cynical, overly nervous or a character that is happy-go-lucky?
5. What sort of language do they use? Is the language suitable - e.g. would a twenty year old woman who works in a cafe be using complex dialogue in her everyday life?
6. Why do they things a certain way?
7. What is their goal? What motivates (or maybe even demotivates) them to do things a certain way?

# A time and a place

A great character needs an equally interesting time and place to live their life... Some helpful things to consider to kickstart this aspect can include:

1. Does the place reflect the mood? If it is a tense scene it may be better set a night
2. Use sensory language - what does the place sound like, smell like, look like?
3. What setting will best challenge or help a character to get to their end goal?
4. Does the name of the place fit within the story? If the town is depicted as a cold, sleepy town it is probably best not to name the town 'Sunnyville'. Be sure the names of places adequately fit into the story.
5. Be consistent. Make sure your character is often in the same place - or if they move around, make this clear! Nothing is more confusing for a reader than a story that jumps from place to place.

# What will the character experience?

Writing about a human experience is a great approach to creative writing. Why? Because it is highly guaranteed that the reader will be able to relate to the topic! Some human experiences to write about include:

- Pain and/or agony
- Torment
- Sadness
- Joy
- Triumph
- Anticipation
- Success
- Curiosity

# Why will the character experience?

Consider why the character needs to experience this... It could be to

- Make them stronger and/or experience personal growth
- Make them more empathetic and/or understanding
- Allow for a character to solve a problem
- Help a character to achieve their goal

# Outcome

Endings can be one of the trickiest parts of a story. Consider some common creative writings and have a think about which ending would be most satisfying for your story:

1. Realisation - is the character enlightened by an epiphany?
2. An unexpected ending - does the character do the opposite of what is expected?
3. Is action and/or drama resolved?
4. Thought provoking ending - does it end in a way that makes the audience consider what is the most appropriate/moral thing to do?

# Other tips

1. Plan
2. Practice. You can only get better at writing through working on the skill!
3. Read - anything and everything!
4. Find your own voice - find a style of writing and make it your own. You are more likely to write a story with originality and free from cliches if it is written in a personal way
5. The more the merrier - have lots of *different* people read it. Have your parents, your friends, grandparents, teachers and so forth. This will help to make sure it is readable and makes sense
6. Edit - more than once.



# Still stuck for ideas? Check out some



