

What Will I Write About?

by Dee White

Ever find yourself staring at a blank screen or piece of paper and wondering where to start?

I do and I'm an author.

Here are where some of my best story ideas come from:

- Things that have really happened to me or to people I know
- Memories of people, events or places
- People I see on trains and buses
- Conversations I overhear
- Newspaper articles
- Other books
- A picture in a magazine
- A place I have been to
- A smell, sound or feeling
- A problem or dilemma being faced by someone I know
- Playing with two words that don't quite go together eg Flower attack
- Using the last line of a story I have written as the first line in a new piece of writing
- Thinking of a secret that someone might want to keep and what would happen if it was discovered
- Imagining getting a letter or email from someone I have never met

If I'm still stuck, I think of a character/name and match them with an action to try and get me started.

For example:

- Ashley fell
- Ashley twisted
- Ashley tumbled ...
- Ashley rocketed ...
- Ashley flew ...
- Ashley flopped ...
- Ashley leapt ...
- Ashley shook ...
- Ashley dropped ...
- Ashley shivered ...
- Ashley trembled ...
- Ashley bobbed ...
- Ashley soared ...
- Ashley is ...

Then I ask myself why this action happened to Ashley, where this action happened, when and how?

THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR STORY

Every story needs a catalyst - an action that starts the story on its course. At the start of your story, something will happen that changes things for the main character.

Every story needs a problem for your character. There is something they want and someone or something is stopping them from getting it. That's what your story is about.

As a writer, you need to decide how your main character is going to solve their problem - and that's where you will finish your story.

EDITING

After I've finished writing my story, I edit it to make sure it is the best it can be. I ask myself these questions:

- Have I hooked the reader in from the start?
- Does the beginning of my story give the reader some idea of what it's about?
- Does my story say what I wanted it to?
- Will the meaning be clear to others?
- Is there enough happening in my story to keep the reader interested?
- Will readers like my main character and care what happens to them?
- Are my characters believable?
- Have I used similes and metaphors and interesting language?
- Have I used the strongest, most effective words possible?
- Is my ending strong enough to satisfy the reader?
- Have I checked to make sure that all my spelling and grammar is correct?

Give your creativity free reign and see how a small idea can become a really big story.

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