

**PBS
KIDS**

WRITERS CONTEST



**Grades
K-5**

Writers Notebook



Author's Name



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Writing Tips

Writing together creates lasting memories, strengthens connections, and nurtures a shared love for storytelling. Here are some ways to build enthusiasm for writing:

- **Encourage Writing During Pretend Play**

Children love to play pretend – and writing can be part of this imaginative work. For example, if they like tea parties, encourage them to make invitations for guests, place cards, maps, signs or menus.

- **Model Writing**

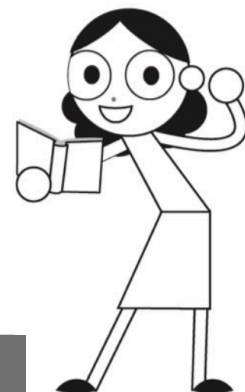
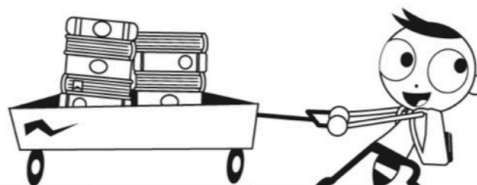
One of the most effective ways to help children become writers is to show them through your own example that writing has useful purposes. Talk to them about how you use writing, from making a shopping list to texting a loved one. Let them see that writing is a part of daily life.

- **Make a Book Together**

All it takes to make a book is paper and crayons/markers. Staple pieces of paper together or fold them in half. Invite children to write a story about a favorite topic or activity, such as dinosaurs or playing at the park – a picture and a few words on every page. Once they have filled all the pages, have them read it to you, a younger sibling or a stuffed animal.



For learning on-the-go,
check out the
PBS KIDS Games
app and
PBS KIDS Video app



Find more tips and activities on pbs.org/parents



WRITERS CONTEST



Get Ready to **WRITE!**

Let's start by drawing
some pictures of what
you want to write
about!



pbskids.org/writerscontest

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Brainstorming is a way to come up with new and different ideas. Use this activity booklet to write or draw whatever comes to your mind. You'll end up with a GREAT STORY!



Brainstorming

Where the best stories begin.

Story Structure All stories have a beginning, middle and an end. Write down or draw how you want the story to start, what happens during the story, and how will it end.

Beginning

Middle

End

Lined writing area for the beginning of the story.

Lined writing area for the middle of the story.

Lined writing area for the end of the story.





WRITERS CONTEST

write my future



Narrative Writing

Story Structure Use this narrative writing guide for your story!

Learn about exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

Climax

This is the turning point! The character faces the conflict. They may go through changes. You might even include their thoughts and feelings.



Rising Action

This is where your conflict develops, and the suspense builds!

Falling Action

This is where you can tie loose ends. The character takes action leading to a solution of the conflict. It's time to conclude the adventure!

Exposition

Build the context for your story. Introduce your characters. What is the setting? Introduce the conflict or problem your character runs into.

Your Story

Resolution

Wrap up your story. The resolution may include a memory, decision, feeling, or wish!



Main Character The person, animal or thing your story is about.

Create a list of different characters you want in your story and describe them.
(Spike the dog is fluffy, Aunt Sally always wears funny clothes.)

Character

Description

Setting Where your story takes place.

Create a list of different places (the zoo, the moon) and choose whether it's the past, present or future (last year, next Tuesday). Think about how the setting might affect your character (the snow made it cold).

Setting



Parent Tip!

For more resources about reading and writing visit: readingrockets.org

Problem & Resolution

The challenge your character(s) face and how they overcome it.

Create a list of problems (passing a math quiz, fighting an evil villain). Then in a separate list create ways to solve the problem. Choose your favorite scenarios and circle them.

Problem

Resolution



All that brainstorming has paid off! You now have a basic plan. Turn the page over and use the space to start your story. **Have fun!**

WRITERS CONTEST

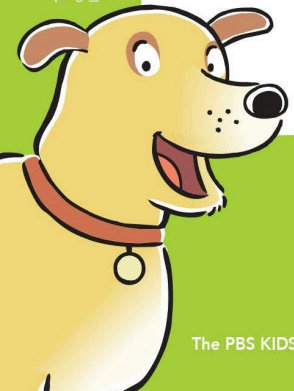


Let the story writing begin!

write my future

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**Story running long?
Grab another sheet of paper!**

Draw This!

Draw a picture that illustrates the word "School" in the box below. Then, choose seven more words to write and illustrate in the remaining boxes. After you're done, explain to a classmate, teacher or parent what you drew and why.



Happy



School

(Draw a picture here.)

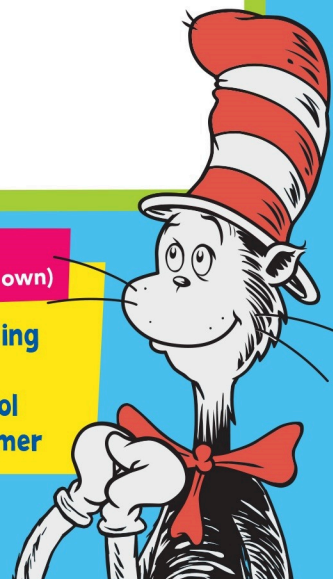
(Write a word here.)

(Draw a picture here.)

Sample words:

(Use these or make up your own)

Bedtime Reading
Birthday Sad
Family School
Playground Summer



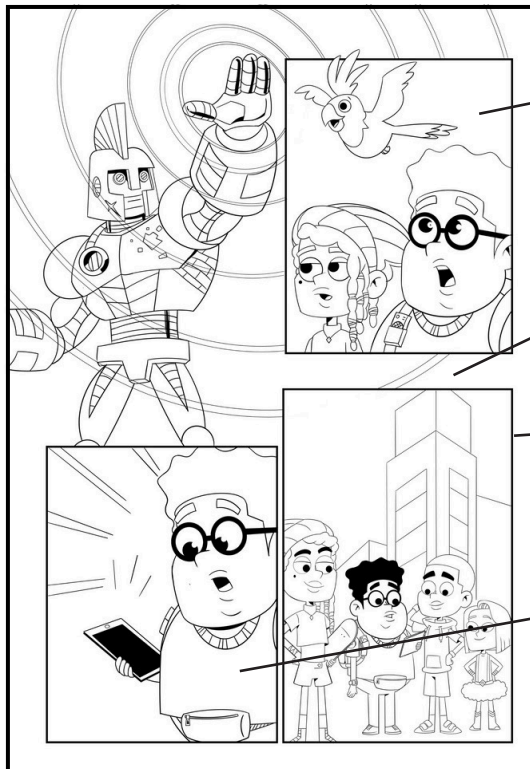
Name: _____



What is a comic book?

Comic books are a storytelling medium made up of illustrations and words to tell a story.

What else do I need to know?



PANEL: An individual frame; a single drawing, often a square or rectangle

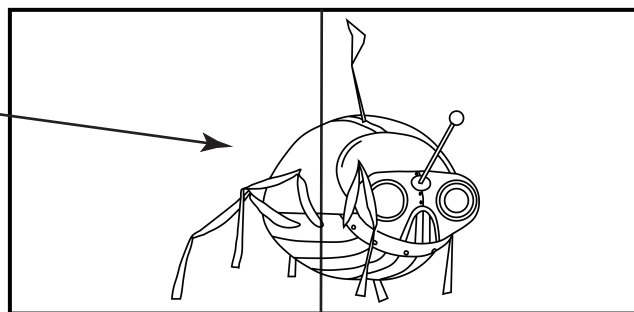
GUTTER: The blank space between the panels

TIER: When rectangle panels are stacked on top of one another

STRIP: A series of panels that are read as a comic story

SPREAD: When the picture takes up two full pages

SPLASH: When the picture takes up one full page



Make your own comic! What kinds of pages will you create?

Story Planner

My Name: _____

Check the boxes when you complete each task.

<input type="checkbox"/> I made the TITLE of my story	<input type="checkbox"/> I made my CHARACTER'S NAME
<input type="checkbox"/> Some DETAILS about my character (What does my character look or act like? What does my character like or dislike?)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I know my character's STRENGTHS ...	<input type="checkbox"/> I know my character's WEAKNESSES ...



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I've created the **PROBLEM** in my story

I've created the **SOLUTION** to the problem in my story

BEGINNING

Setting + Characters + State the problem

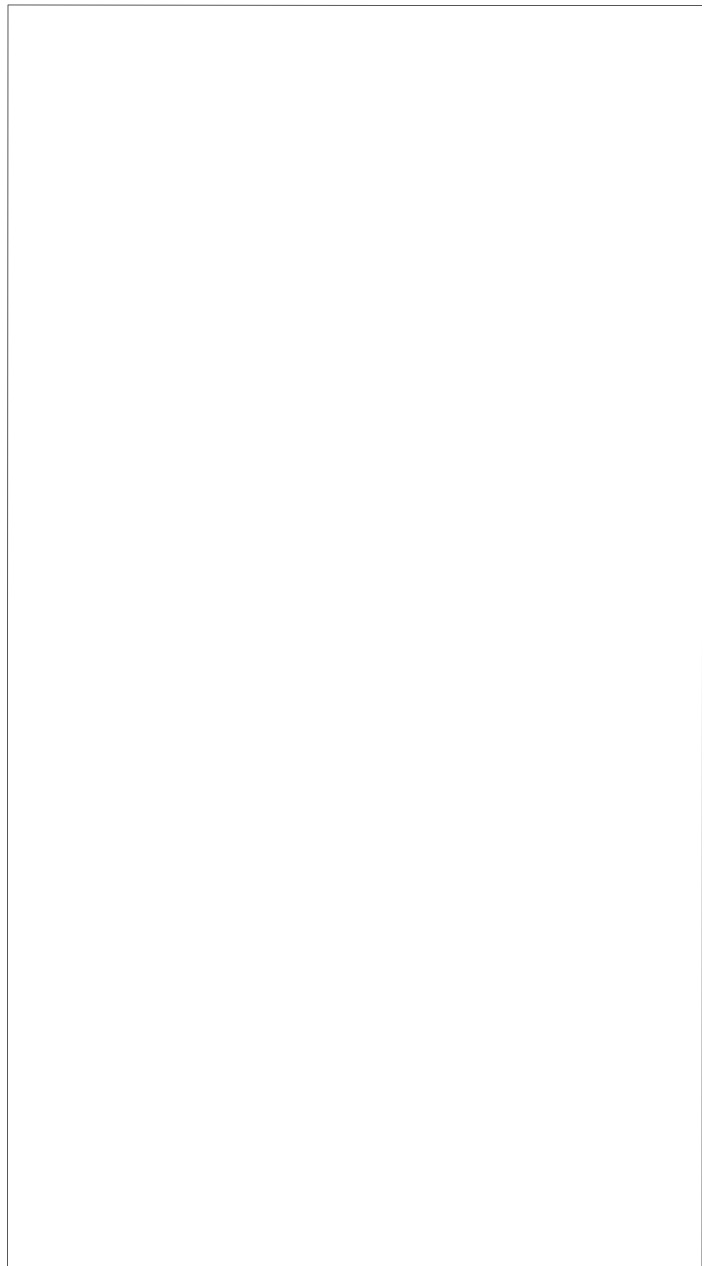
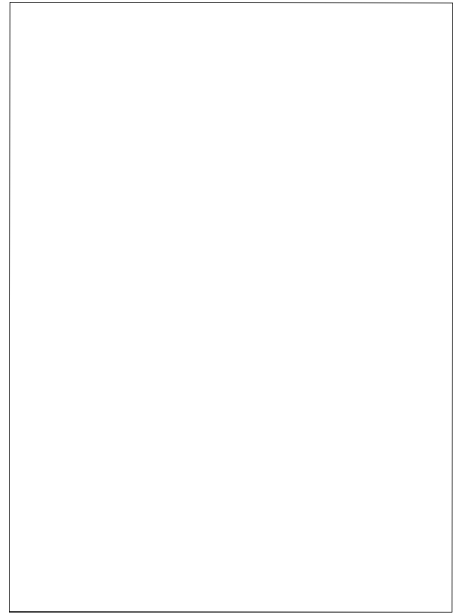
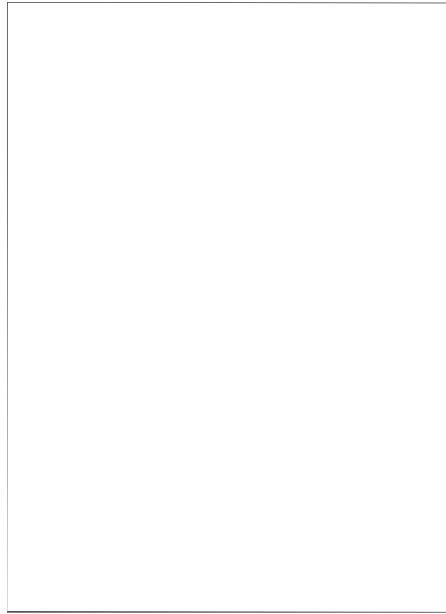
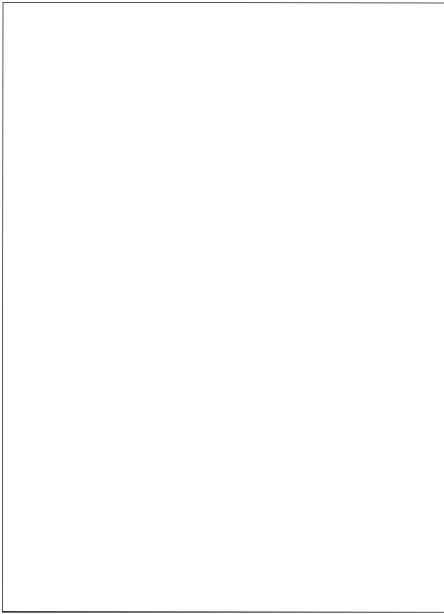
MIDDLE

The actions taken to solve the problem

END

Solution + Conclusion to my story

Use your story planner and put it together!



Create Your Own Accidental Art!



Have one family member start a drawing. It can be anything—a design, pattern, or picture of something. After a minute or two, pass it on to the next family member. Keep going until everyone has had a chance to add something. Congratulations! You've created “accidental “art”!

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Story Revision

Checklist

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Read your story out loud.
Then ask yourself each of these questions.
If the answer is yes, check it off on the checklist!



- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Does my story have a beginning, middle, and end? | <input type="checkbox"/> | My story is organized! |
| Does my story answer my reader's questions about what happened? | <input type="checkbox"/> | My story is developed! |
| Does my story include enough information? | <input type="checkbox"/> | My story is detailed! |
| Does my story use clear and specific words? | <input type="checkbox"/> | My story has good vocabulary! |
| Do my sentences make sense when I read them out loud? | <input type="checkbox"/> | My story has good sentence structure! |
| Did I check my story for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization? | <input type="checkbox"/> | My story is proofread! |

For more information on WVPB's Writers Contest visit: wvpublic.org/wvpb-education

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