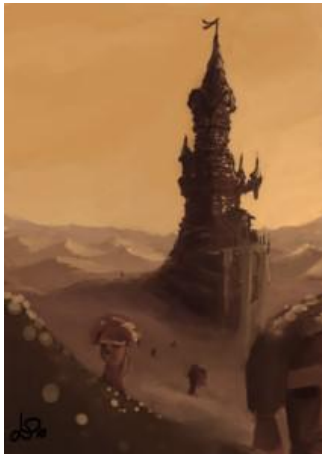


## STORY IDEAS: PLACES

Being creative is a really useful skill in life (not just for storytelling) so learning tricks and techniques to get your creative side working is never a bad thing.

Today we're going to look at a quick technique I use. It should help switch on that creative part of your brain and prepare you to create a fantastic story.

### SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT



Think of where you're writing right now. Is there a place that could be the most opposite you could imagine? Somewhere absolutely nothing like where you are sitting at this moment?

What is that place like?

What's the weather like there?

Is it a safe place or is it somewhere perilous?

If you were to sit down and write in this new place what would you be writing with? Would it be a scroll of paper with feather quill and ink, or a futuristic tablet with an AI who talks to you as though they're the cleverest being in the galaxy?

### A STRANGER

OK, now you know a lot about this new place so let's take a look around and see if there's anyone there? Who are they? Are they human/ animal/ alien/ something else? What are they doing? What mood are they in?

You now *should* have a setting and your main character. This isn't everything you need for a story but it's a good start.



## GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE

Now ask your character a few questions. What are their interests? What are their skills? What are their main fears? What would they like to be doing this time tomorrow?



Take your time with your character. Ask weird questions but even 'boring' questions can give you ideas for your story. What might your character eat for breakfast? Where do they sleep? You might be surprised at the direction their story takes.

## GO AND WRITE

You now have two out of the three basic parts of a story, the last one is plot. What will your character do? What will happen to them next?

Hopefully you feel ready to write a short piece of writing now.

Once you are done, if you would like to share your story with other writers please feel free to pop over to the Celebrating Stories website. We would love to see your story.

If you haven't joined yet, no problem. It's free to join, takes less than a minute, and once you're registered you can pop back and share stories and pictures any time. Simply click on 'Go Create' up on the main menu to share stories, poems, pictures, or whatever you like.

