

STORY IDEAS: THEIR STORY



Your characters are one of the most important parts of your story. Whether a character is a hero or a villain, the reader needs to feel like they *know* them.

Today's writing challenge will help you create believable characters. We'll do this by looking at how we learn about people in *real life*.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU... QUICKLY?

Learning about others is a slow process. A friend's stories naturally lead from one story to another until we know them well. Yet, when you want to get a single story out of someone you sometimes have to learn fast.

Today we'll dive into someone's memories for a story. You'll take on the role of a journalist. A journalist hunts for stories. They research their story, then they publish it in a newspaper, on TV, or on the internet.

In our 'story hunt' this week. You'll use the answers to your 'interviews' to write that story up next time.



FIND THEIR STORY



Your story is hiding in someone's memory so you'll need to pair up for this writing challenge.

If you're in school you can work with the person who sits beside you. If you're at home then find someone in the house who has five or ten minutes to spare.

When interviewing your partner listen with care to their answers. Don't write anything down, simply listen. There's time for writing notes later.

Look out for something unusual, or exciting about their stories. These questions should help:

- What's the best day you've ever had?
- What is your greatest achievement?
- Have you ever been somewhere unusual?
- What is your favourite hobby?

GET THE DETAILS

Your partner might give you lots of stories. Pick one answer that sounds particularly interesting and try to find out more.

Journalists ask some key questions about *any* story, often called the 'five Ws'. They are: **Who? What? When? Where? and Why?** (and often they'll add **How?** As well)



IMPORTANT: Remember to ask about your partner's **feelings** in particular. (This help a lot when you turn your interview into a story **next time**)

Whether you get short answers or long answers. Either is fine. Their answers tell their story.

(Note: You'll need to write notes for this, jot down the most important bits you hear.)

STORIES ABOUT EVENTS/PLACES:

- **Who** did they go with/ who was involved?
- **What** happened at the event? AND **What** did they need to do to achieve it/ get there?
- **When** did this take place?
- **Where** did the event happen?
- **Why** did they attend this event?
- **How** did they feel before it? AND **How** do they feel after going?

STORIES ABOUT HOBBIES/ SKILLS:

- **Who** helps them with this hobby/skill? **Who** got them interested in it?
- **What** is their hobby/skill? **What** have they done most recently with it?
- **When** did they start learning about their hobby/skill?
- **Where** do they go for their hobby/skill? **Where** do they get equipment/ materials?
- **Why** did they start their hobby/skill? **Why** do they continue to practice this skill/ hobby?
- **How** do they feel about their hobby/skill? **How** would someone learn about it?

MORE TO COME



This is a two-part activity. In the end, you'll have a 'nonfiction' story. Non-fictional means that a story is factual (not imaginary).

Your notes from this week are vital for part two so keep a hold of them.

In the meantime feel free to share *other* stories you have on Celebrating Stories. Stories can be written, drawn, animated... whatever you like.

Happy writing, All the best, John