

STORY IDEAS: THEIR STORY



Characters are a very important part of a story. Readers need to feel like they know them.

Today's writing challenge looks at how we learn about people in real life.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Today you'll pretend to be a 'journalist'. A journalist's job is to hunt for stories. They collect facts, then they write a story from them.

You are on a 'story hunt' this week. To hunt for a story we do an 'interview'.



FIND THEIR STORY

You'll need a partner for this writing challenge.



If you're in school, work with the person beside you. If you're at home, find someone who has a few minutes to spare.

Listen carefully to your partner. Don't write anything down just now. You'll write 'notes' later.

Look out for exciting things or things that are different from usual. Try asking them these questions:

- What's the best day you've ever had?
- What have you won?
- What is the strangest place you have been?
- What is your hobby?

THE REAL STORY

Pick a story that sounds interesting. Ask about it. Journalists ask special questions called the 'five Ws'. They are: **Who?** **What?** **When?** **Where?** and **Why?** (They also add **How?** as well sometimes)



IMPORTANT: Ask about *feelings* too. (Feelings will help turn your interview into a *story next time*). You should write (or draw) bits of the story down as they tell you. These **notes** will help you to remember later.

STORIES ABOUT EVENTS/PLACES:

- **Who** did they go with?
- **What** happened? AND **What** did they do to get there?
- **When** did this happen?
- **Where** did it happen?
- **Why** did they go there?
- **How** did they feel before it? AND **How** did they feel after it?

STORIES ABOUT HOBBIES/ SKILLS:

- **Who** helps them? **Who** told them about it?
- **What** is their hobby/skill? **What** have they done with it?
- **When** did they start learning about it?
- **Where** do they go to do it? Where do they get what they need for it?
- **Why** did they start their hobby/skill? **Why** do they keep doing it?
- **How** do they feel about their hobby/skill?

MORE TO COME



Next time you'll finish your 'non-fiction' story. Non-fiction means a story is factual (not pretend).

Your notes are important. Don't lose them.

You can always share *other* stories on Celebrating Stories. You can write or draw your story. Whatever you like is OK.

Happy writing, All the best, John