



Rosary School - Marj Elhamam

Story Writing Guide

Grade 3

2025-2026

Story Writing Guide

Steps to Write a Short Story

Step 1: Think and Plan

Before writing, you should:

- Choose **who** the story is about (characters).
- Decide **where** and **when** it happens (setting).
- Think of a **problem** and how it will be **solved**.

You can jot ideas in a quick plan:

- Characters: _____
- Setting (where/when): _____
- Problem: _____
- Important events: _____
- Ending (solution + feeling): _____

Step 2: Start drafting your story

The main parts of a short story

1- Beginning (Introduction) - a separate paragraph

What to include:

- **Who:** introduce the main characters.
- **Where and when:** the setting (forest, school, park, morning, night, etc.).
- **A starting action or feeling** to grab the reader's attention.

Sentence starter examples:

- One day, ...
- On a bright morning, ...
- At school, ...

2- Middle (Problem & Events) - separate paragraphs

What to include:

- **The problem** (something goes wrong).
- **What the characters do** (important actions and feelings during the problem).
- Use **powerful verbs** and **adjectives** to make the story interesting.
- Add **adverbial phrases** (when? where? how?) to give more detail.

NB: Check the helping notes at the end for different adverbial phrases

3- Ending (Solution & Feeling) - Last part

What to include:

- How the problem is solved (the solution).
- How the characters feel at the end and after solving the problem (delighted, safe, proud, relieved, etc.).
- A final sentence to finish the story.

Sentence starter examples:

- In the end, ...
- At last, ...
- Finally, ...

Helping notes

When to start a new paragraph?

New idea = New paragraph

Start a new paragraph when:

1. There is a new part of the story
 - Beginning / middle / ending
2. There is a change in time
 - When the time jumps or changes
 - Example: Later that day, ... / The next morning, ...

3. There is a change in place

- When the characters move to a different place
- Example: from the forest to the village, from home to school

4. There is a new event or action

- When something important happens (problem, big decision, solution)

5. New speaker (in dialogues)

- Each time a different person speaks:
 - Danny said, "..." (new paragraph/ new line)
 - Lily replied, "..." (new paragraph/new line)

Types of adverbial phrase: Use them often at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence in stories

- Adverbial phrases of time (When?):
- One sunny morning
- Early in the evening
- Late at night
- After a few minutes
- A moment later
- The next day
- In the middle of the night
- At that very moment
- After a while

- 2. Adverbial phrases of place (Where?)

- In the deep forest
- Along the forest path
- At the edge of the river
- Behind the old tree
- Under the tall bridge
- In the middle of the playground
- On the rocky hill
- Inside the dark cave
- Near the quiet lake
- At the top of the tower

- 3. Adverbial phrases of manner (How?)

- With a happy smile
- In a panic
- With shaking hands
- With a loud crash
- In a cheerful voice
- As fast as lightning
- With great care
- With a heavy heart
- In complete silence
- With a sleepy yawn

- 4. Adverbial phrases of reason or purpose (Why?)
- To find some help
- To keep her sister safe
- To hide from the creature
- To see what was making the noise