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WRITING A STORY

Where do you start if you want (0) write a successful story? Clearly, what you need first of (16) is an idea which you can develop into a strong plot. But (17) do ideas like this come from? The (18) is 'anywhere and everywhere'. They may come from something that has (19) to you or to (20) else, from a newspaper, an interesting picture, or even a song. It's a good idea to keep a notebook nearby (21) that you can write down the details of any odd incidents (22) catch your imagination. Make a note of ideas (23) titles too, and any special phrases or descriptions that you think of. A small tape recorder can (24) useful for this purpose. Some writers even keep (25) by their bed in (26) they wake up with the 'idea of the century'.

Another method of developing the story is to make use (27) the characters themselves. Why not (28) putting three people you know well into a situation such as a wedding, where feelings may be very strong, and see (29) happens. But don't make the final characters too much like your Aunt Jane or Uncle Jim or you may find (30) in real trouble.