WRITING A STORY

NAME: _____

Read the article below about how to plan a story. Do you use a similar process for writing stories? Complete the sentences in the article with the words in the box.



main	middle	person
	time	true

How to plan a story

Have you ever written a story for school or for fun? Did you find it hard to get started? Creative writing can be hard, but there are ways to plan the process so it's more efficient.

1 **Choose a genre.** The genre is the type of story you want to write. There are fictional stories that writers imagine and [1] _____ stories about events that really happened. Fiction includes specific genres, such as mystery, fantasy, science fiction, romance and suspense. Try a genre that you enjoy reading so it will be familiar to you.

2 **Think about characters.** Most stories have one or two [2] _____ characters. They are the most important people, but they aren't always good characters, or heroes. They can also be villains who make problems for other people. Some genres also have typical characters that readers expect to find in the story. For instance, in mysteries there are generally criminals and detectives, while science fiction has robots, spaceships or aliens from other worlds.

3 **Who's the narrator?** The narrator is the [3] _____ who tells the story. It might be a character who describes his or her experiences by saying something like, 'I was walking in the woods when I heard a strange noise.' The narrator can also be an observer who reports events but doesn't play a role. In that case, the narrator could say, 'Laura was walking in the woods when she heard a strange noise.' In some stories the narrator also knows what characters are thinking.

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4 **Choose a setting.** Most stories take place in a particular place and [4] _____ , or setting. It can be very simple, such as 'a rainy day in the countryside' if the events are more important than the setting. In other cases, the setting can be very specific, with facts about the location, historical period and weather. The narrator can also describe how the setting feels, with words like cold, dark and sad. This helps to create a mood for the story.

5 **What's the plot?** The plot is the sequence of events in a story, from beginning to end. In the [5] _____ , there is often a problem that the characters have to solve. This problem grows and develops until the most important moment of the story, called the climax. In a mystery, this is when the detective solves the crime. After the climax, the story comes to an end, which can be happy ... or maybe not. That depends on the writer, of course!

Once you've finished planning, you're ready to start writing your story. But remember, most writers revise and change their work many times before they are happy with the result. Good luck, and happy writing!

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