

# Handout 1

## DESCRIBING STORIES

A Work in pairs. Are the statements true or false? Rewrite the false statements so that they are true.

- 1 In a coming-of-age story, the main character might be a teenager.
- 2 A family saga is a feel-good comedy about one year in a person's life.
- 3 Hard-luck stories explain the fortunes of very successful people.
- 4 Horror stories are scary.
- 5 A human interest story might explain someone's personal tragedy.
- 6 Love stories usually have romance.
- 7 A tall tale is a true story.
- 8 If a movie is a tearjerker, the audience will laugh a lot.

B Work in pairs. Match the description to the type of story.



- 1 Two friends get lost in the woods. They fear someone is following them. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A man opens a restaurant but discovers running a business is harder than it looks. He loses his investment and his wife leaves him. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The story is about members of the richest family in America. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone works in the family business, and family members argue with each other as they try to increase their wealth and power. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A pet dog is lost while a family is on vacation. The dog travels across the country to find his family. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A college student invents a new technology. He becomes a millionaire and falls in love. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 One summer, a group of boys goes on an adventure. They learn the value of friendship and promise to help one another as they grow up. \_\_\_\_\_

- a human interest story
- b family saga
- c horror story
- d coming-of-age story
- e hard-luck story
- f success story

C Work individually. Think of a movie or a book that is an example of one of the story types above. Write two or three sentences that describe the story.