



*Your Spooky Story*  
*Workbook*

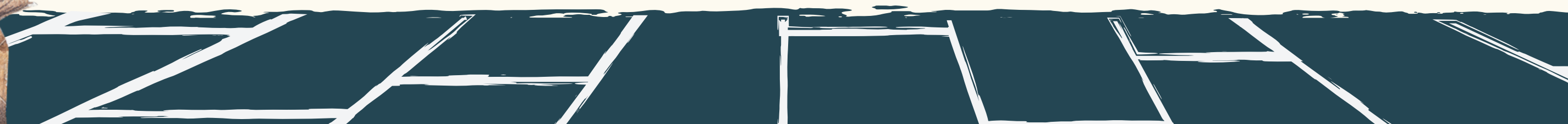


# Welcome to

## WRITING SPOOKY STORIES: BY KIDS, FOR KIDS

The story writing process:

- Writing for purpose
- Writing for audience
- Developing a sequence of ideas
- Completing questionnaires / surveys
- Analysing feedback
- Story structure
- Character creation
- Conflict and resolution





YOUR NAME

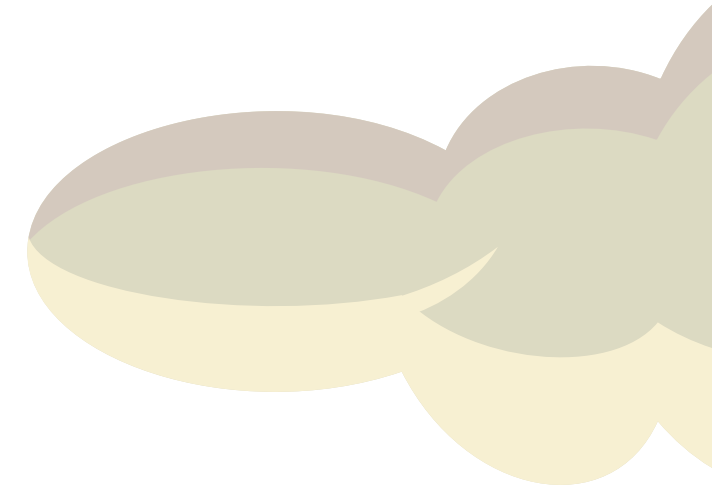
YOUR STORY TITLE

YOUR AGE

Put Your Ideas Here



*Any more ideas?*





# Connecting

## THE STORY TO ITS AUDIENCE

Before you dive in and write the story, it makes good practice to find out if your ideas for your story match what your audience wants.

Why?

When you know what your audience wants, you can shape your ideas into something your audience will love.

Not only that!

When you know who your audience is, you'll be able to use characters and experiences that really capture their interest.



# Connecting

## THE STORY TO ITS AUDIENCE

Sometimes, story ideas need a little work. This is perfectly NORMAL. If you aim to write a story for a younger age group, understanding what's right for them and what they find spookily entertaining is a great place to start! The same applies if you want to write a story for your own age group.

Brainstorming ideas with your audience is often a great way to find out what they might like to read about in a story.

# Connecting

## THE STORY TO ITS AUDIENCE

It's good to know your audience as well as you can because then you will know what they like. This might include things such as:

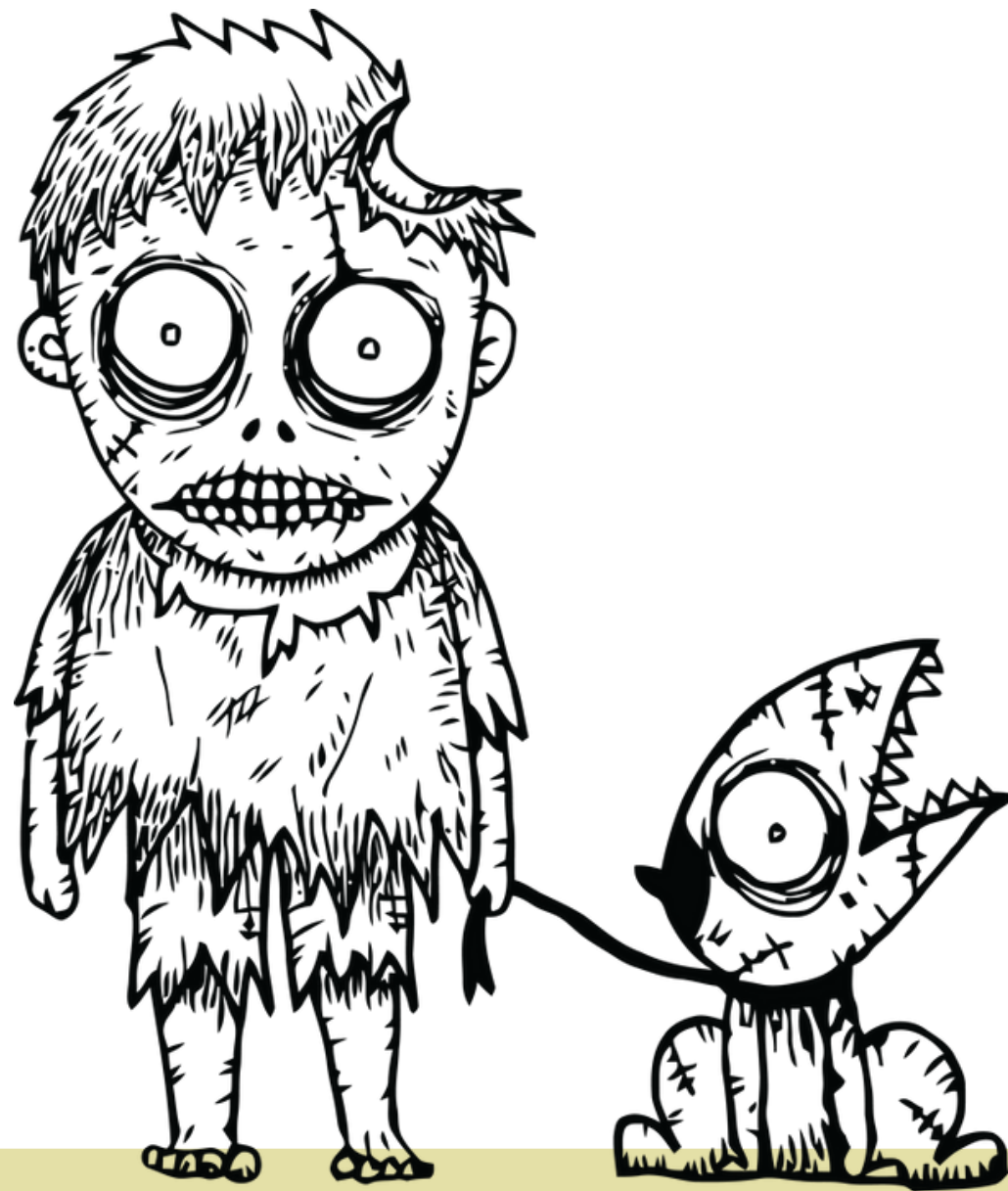
- Their age?
- Do they like haunted houses?
- Do they have brothers and sisters?
- Do they believe in ghosts?
- Do love mysteries?
- Do they like fantasy creatures?
- Do they read R.L Stine?
- Do they get excited when things go bump in the night?





# Connecting

## THE STORY TO ITS AUDIENCE



It's time to start asking questions. Create a questionnaire to survey your potential audience. You can ask them questions to see if they like your story ideas, general questions about stories they read, or a mixture of both. Here are a few examples:

- What is your favourite spooky story and why do you like it?
- Do you like creepy houses that hold fascinating secrets?
- Do you like scary forests that play tricks on you?
- Do you like haunted mansions that trap wandering children inside?
- Do you like ghost teachers that think they're still alive?

Go to the Story Survey worksheet and write down questions for your audience to answer.

# Connecting

## THE STORY TO ITS AUDIENCE

What did you discover from your Story Survey? Write it down here. This is your chance to align your story ideas with your audience likes and dislikes.



# Connecting

## THE STORY TO ITS AUDIENCE

Write down your final story idea in the space below.



# Break it Down

## GET CLEAR

WHO'S YOUR MAIN  
CHARACTER?

WHAT'S THE  
CONFLICT?

WHERE IS IT  
HAPPENING?

# Break it Down

## GET CLEAR

HOW IS IT  
HAPPENING?

WHY IS IT  
HAPPENING?

WHAT HAPPENED  
NEXT?

# Break it Down

## GET CLEAR

WHEN WAS IT?

WHO OR WHAT IS  
THE ENEMY?

WHAT COULD BE  
DONE DIFFERENTLY?

# Break it Down

## GET CLEAR

WHO CAN HELP?

HOW CAN THEY HELP?

WHAT'S THE RESULT IF  
THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL?

# Break it Down

## GET CLEAR

WHAT'S THE  
RESOLUTION?

ADD NOTES HERE

ADD NOTES HERE





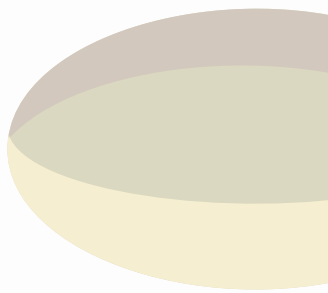
# Character PROFILES

Write down your character names. Then write a little bit about them and their part in the story. Are they part of the problem or are they a part of the solution?

CHARACTER NAME:

CHARACTER NAME:

CHARACTER NAME:





# Character DRAWING

What does your character look like? Write their name below and sketch them in the blank space opposite. Think of how they're feeling when you sketch them. Are they feeling happy? Are they sad? Are they excited or brave? Are they confident or are they shy? Do this for as many characters as you choose.

**CHARACTER NAME:**





# Character PROFILE

Get to know your characters well. Write down the parts of your character that are important to the story. You'll need to understand what they want & what they're getting. Do they have a super strength? Do they have a weakness? What are they willing to risk to get what they want? Who is willing to help them? Who are their friends? Who are their enemies? What do they understand about the world around them, and add anything else you think is an important part of their personality/experience within your story.

**CHARACTER NAME:**

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WHAT'S THEIR PROBLEM?:

WHAT DO THEY WANT?

WHO WANTS TO STOP THEM?

CAN THEY FIND A SOLUTION?

WHO CAN HELP?

WHAT RISK IS INVOLVED?

WHAT ARE THEIR STRENGTHS?

WHAT ARE THEIR WEAKNESSES?

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER CHARACTER DETAIL THAT IS IMPORTANT TO HELP YOU WRITE YOUR STORY?



# Character

## DESCRIPTION ADJECTIVES

Write down how you might describe your character to a friend.

Do they have long wavy hair?

Do they shout or growl when they talk?

Do they creep or stomp when they walk?

Do they smile sweetly or wickedly?

Do they giggle or cackle?

Are their eyes flame red or soft blue?

Use the questions as examples of adjectives you could describe your character with.

## CHARACTER NAME:

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HOW DO THEY BEHAVE - NAUGHTY, GOOD, BRAVE,?:

HOW DO THEY TALK - LOUD, QUIET,, FAST, SLOW?

WHAT COLOUR IS THEIR HAIR - RED, BROWN, GOLDEN?

DO THEY HAVE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES - FRECKLES, GLASSES, BANDAGES, A HAT?

WHAT ARE THEY LIKE AROUND OTHERS - CONFIDENT, SHY, CHEEKY?



# Environmental DESCRIPTION ADJECTIVES

Write down how you might describe the environment in your story.

Are there trees? What colour are the leaves?

Is it frosty, warm, rainy, windy?

Are their buildings: spooky dark, damp?

Are there areas where they really shouldn't be? Are they trespassing?

Use the questions alongside as examples of adjectives you could describe the story's environment with. Don't worry if your story doesn't need some of these things. Use your imagination to discover what you can say about your story's environment.

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IS IT COLD, HOT, RAINY, WINDY, SNOWY,?

DOES A ROOM HAVE FURNITURE? WHAT TYPE? IS IT WOODEN, PLASTIC, FABRIC?

WHAT'S THE GROUND MADE OF? A STONE GROUND, A GRAVEL GROUND, A TILED GROUND,?

IS THERE GRASS? IS IT LONG GRASS, SHORT GRASS, BURNT GRASS?

WHAT DOES THE AIR SMELL LIKE? IS IT SWEET? IS IT SMELLY? IS IT LIKE HOME-COOKED PIZZA?

# Structure

Story structure can be set into three parts: a beginning, a middle and an end. Though, it's not always obvious where one part starts and the next begins.

It's useful to use these three markers:

1. The problem
2. The cause and effect of the problem
3. The solution (the fix) to the problem

Let's take a look at each section and ask the right questions. Write your answers on the next page.

## Part one: The Problem

Who has the problem?  
Who/what else does it involve?  
How long has it been going on for?

## Part two: The Cause and Effect

What happens because of the problem?  
What caused the problem?  
Can anyone find a solution to the problem?  
Who can help solve the problem?

## Part three: The solution (the fix)

What's the idea behind the solution?  
What are the steps to be taken to resolve the problem?  
What's the effect of the problem being fixed?

Show the reader the answers to these questions through your character's eyes.



# Structure

## Part one: The Problem

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What's the effect of the problem being fixed?



# Beginnings



Here are some possible beginnings to get your story off to a flying start. Use your creative thinking to finish these sentences.

Once upon a time ...

One day ...

On my way to school I ...

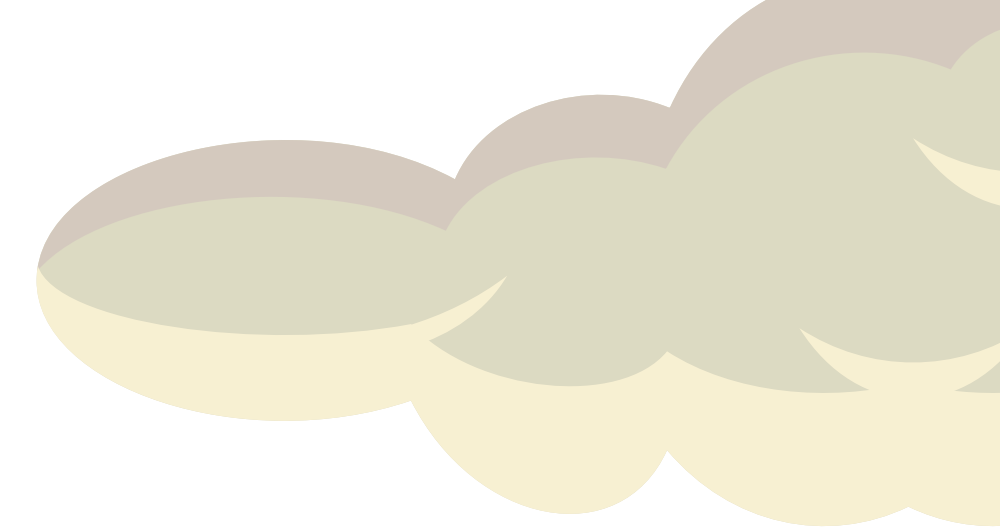
You might not know this about me but I ...

A long time ago ...





# Storytime



It's now time to write your story draft, and when you're ready you can write your final version. There is a storybook template provided for you to begin and finish your story.

When you're ready, type your story or get an adult to help you, (along with one illustration / sketch of your choice) and email it to [cheryl@cherylhart.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@cherylhart.co.uk) with a subject title of Young Author.

