

15 WAYS TO WRITE A STORY!

HELLO! MY NAME IS DAVE COUSINS. I'VE BEEN WRITING FOR MANY YEARS, BUT I'M STILL LEARNING WITH EVERY NEW STORY I WRITE. HERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'VE PICKED UP ALONG THE WAY THAT MAY HELP WITH YOUR OWN STORIES.



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15 WAYS TO WRITE A STORY!

#01

USE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES,
AND TALK TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY
TO COLLECT STORY **IDEAS.**
BUT REMEMBER—NEVER LET
THE TRUTH GET IN THE WAY OF
A GOOD STORY! ALLOW YOUR
IMAGINATION TO TAKE OVER!



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#02

KEEP A NOTEBOOK AND
WRITE SOMETHING EVERY DAY:
AN IDEA; AN OVERHEARD
CONVERSATION; A JOKE;
A POEM; A SONG; A LIST;
A DOODLE—WHATEVER
YOU FEEL LIKE.



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#03

WRITE FOR YOURSELF FIRST.

IF YOU LIKE TO LAUGH—
FIND THE HUMOUR IN YOUR STORY.
IF YOU LIKE TO BE SCARED—
FIND THE HORROR!



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#04

TRY ASKING THE QUESTION:

WHAT IF?

SEE HOW MANY IDEAS YOU
CAN COME UP WITH,
E.G. WHAT IF I WOKE UP AND
FOUND THAT EVERYONE ELSE
HAD DISAPPEARED?



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#05

BEFORE YOU START WRITING,
ASK YOURSELF:

**HOW DO I WANT
THE READER TO FEEL?**

DO YOU WANT THEM TO LAUGH,
CRY, OR HIDE UNDER
THE BED?



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#06

FIND THE PROBLEM.

STORIES GET GOOD
WHEN THINGS GO WRONG!
MAKE LIFE HARD FOR YOUR
MAIN CHARACTERS.



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#07

THINK WITH YOUR HANDS!

ASK QUESTIONS, THEN WRITE
DOWN THE ANSWERS TO GENERATE
IDEAS, E.G. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?
WHO IS TRYING TO STOP
MY HERO? WHY?



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#08

GET TO KNOW YOUR **CHARACTERS.**

ASK THEM QUESTIONS:

HOW DO THEY FEEL?

WHAT DO THEY WANT?

WHAT ARE THEY MOST AFRAID OF?

WHAT IS THEIR SECRET?

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS?



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#09

ONCE YOU HAVE SOME IDEAS,
A **PLAN** CAN HELP DEVELOP THE
STORY. ASK QUESTIONS TO DECIDE
WHAT COULD HAPPEN. CREATE
MARKERS FOR WHERE THE STORY
MIGHT GO, BUT LEAVE ROOM
TO EXPLORE AS YOU WRITE!



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#10

START YOUR STORY AS CLOSE TO THE **ACTION** AS YOU CAN. THIS WILL HELP GET THE READER'S ATTENTION SO THEY WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. BACKGROUND INFORMATION CAN COME LATER.



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#11

USE THE SENSES TO PULL YOUR
READER INTO THE STORY.
DESCRIBE WHAT YOUR CHARACTER
CAN SEE, HEAR AND SMELL.
HOW DO THEY FEEL?
IF THEY ARE HOLDING AN
OBJECT, IS IT COLD? HEAVY?



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#12

INCREASE DRAMA & TENSION
WITH **SLOW-MOTION!** (LIKE IN A FILM)
DESCRIBE THE DETAILS, GUIDE THE
READER TO NOTICE CERTAIN
ELEMENTS FOR COMIC, HORROR,
OR DRAMATIC EFFECT.



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#13

DON'T BE PRECIOUS ABOUT YOUR **FIRST DRAFT.** GET SOME IDEAS DOWN ON PAPER AND HAVE FUN WITH IT! NEXT, READ THROUGH WITH A PEN— UNDERLINE WHAT YOU LIKE, AND MAKE NOTES OF NEW IDEAS AS YOU READ.



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#14

EDIT YOUR STORY IN STAGES—
BIG TO SMALL.

CONCENTRATE ON STORY FIRST.
THEN LOOK AT WORD CHOICES,
GRAMMAR AND SPELLING.
READING ALOUD HELPS TO
IDENTIFY PROBLEMS.



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15 WAYS TO WRITE A STORY!

#15

ASK FRIENDS TO READ YOUR STORIES AND GIVE HONEST **FEEDBACK.** FIND OUT WHAT THEY LIKE AND DON'T LIKE, PLUS ANY PARTS THAT WERE CONFUSING. ALL STORIES NEED SOME FIXING, SO DON'T BE TOO DISAPPOINTED!



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ONE
FOR
LUCK!

I HOPE YOU HAVE FOUND
THESE TIPS USEFUL. GOOD LUCK
WITH YOUR STORIES. ONE FINAL
PIECE OF ADVICE TO FINISH—
POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT!
WHEN YOU WRITE, REMEMBER TO
ENJOY IT!



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