



AUTHOR WRITING TIPS

Our authors have come up with some of their top writing tips to help pupils with their own stories ...

1. MAZ EVANS ON INSPIRATION

'I'm often asked where I get my ideas from, and the thing about ideas is that they can literally turn up any time: you just have to be ready to catch them when they come.'

If you're feeling stuck for ideas, you could:

- Take a look at what's going on in the world – read a newspaper or a magazine.
- Think about places you have travelled or places you would like to go – take a peek at a map or a globe.
- Think about the kinds of things that have happened to you in your own life – those are the things you know best! Something that happened to you could be a starting point for a brilliant adventure.



2. EMMA SHEVAH ON CHARACTERS

'When you're creating stories, you need to think about your characters ...'

When you're creating characters, ask yourself:

- Who are your hero and villain? Are they very unique, or quite ordinary? Why do we want to follow their story?
- Why are they the hero and villain – what's their back story?
- Will they succeed? What happens if they don't – and if they do?





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3. HOLLY RIVERS ON SETTING

'Setting is when and where your story takes place. Have fun with it and be creative – it can really transform your story.'

Here are some things to think about on setting:

- Is your story set in the real world, or somewhere imaginary? Is it a naturalistic or fantastical place?
- In which time period is your story set? In the past, future or present?
- How does the setting affect your characters – for example, in the way they talk, how they act, what they wear, and what they eat?



4. CHRISTOPHER EDGE ON PLOT

'Plot is the things that happen in your story – but another meaning of the word 'plot' is a secret plan ... When you're trying to come up with an idea for your story and putting the different ingredients together it can be really helpful to come up with your own plan.'

Here are some top story planning tips:

- What event will kick-start the action in your story? You want to hook readers straight away – perhaps drop them straight into some exciting action!
- How do the characters react to the event? What happens next? What problems and obstacles arise?
- How does the story end? Does everything come to a conclusion, or does it end on a cliffhanger? Try and keep your scenes building until we reach a climax.

