Create your own stories and characters. Take them any place you want to go!

Hello everyone!

So glad you’ve decided to take a story journey with me. On the following pages, you’ll find five sections of options from which you can choose to create your setting, characters, beginning, goals, and conflicts for your story. These are suggestions to get your creative verve flowing. There are many, many more possibilities than I’ve added here. But for lack of space . . . Well, you get it.

Switch up and swap the sections to create brand new story journeys. You can cut out the options, place them in a bag or hat, and choose that way for an even bigger surprise! Add your ideas to continue the story between each element chosen. Feel free to create your own story starters & Elements.

Oh! And if you’d like to share your story with me, I’d be so excited! Just email it to me or post on social media—but ask your parents first, please.

Now, write on!
Create your own stories by using the prompts below. Take your stories any place you want to go!

Instructions: Choose a starting point for your story.

**Beginnings—Element #1**

Choice 1: The odd hiss seeping through a gap in the old lady’s front teeth as she spoke creeped Daniel out. It reminded him of his nightmare last night, where he was trapped in a never-ending basketball practice with a life-size coach’s whistle.

Choice 2: Her head felt like it had just survived the spin-cycle of Grandma Olsen’s 1980’s washing machine. A rumble rose from Jessie’s stomach as she stepped off the merry-go-round. She didn’t want to throw up in front of all the boys.

Choice 3: Mack and Jed were the best of friends. Well, when they weren’t trying to beat each other while playing Altered Adrenalin - a major, epic video game.

Choice 4: With everything else going on, I hadn’t noticed the shadow following me until it was too late.

Choice 5:

“I clean up in the kitchen!” Malcolm said. “The baby threw up on the dog.”

I closed my eyes and shoved my earbuds back into my ears. I couldn’t believe Mom left me here to babysit all night long.

Choice 6: The sky rained cats and dogs. No, really. I mean real cats and dogs!

Choice 7:

I knew the moment I opened the door that it was a mistake. But there was no way I could shove this eleven-armed Octopi out of the house alone.

“Calvin!” I yelled. “Help!”

Write your own beginning.
Story Starters & Elements

Create your own stories by using the prompts below. Take your stories any place you want to go!

Instructions: use a combination of details to style & create your character(s). *Note: this is a collection of possible characteristics. Feel free to add to them.

### Characters—Element #2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hair: long, short, curly, straight, bald, color, texture, dyed, shiny, dull</th>
<th>Likes, dislikes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hopes and dreams</td>
<td>Eyes: color, size, shape, far/near/deep-set, shadowed, bright, pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lips: big, small, thin, narrow, plump, dry, moist, lip-stick/gloss/chap</td>
<td>Fears and avoidances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyebrows—full, narrow, shallow, thin, angular, crooked, color, shade, tone.</td>
<td>Boy or girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight: skinny, chubby, average</td>
<td>Cheekbones &amp; Chin: high, deep, narrow, bony, pointy, broad, round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ears: big, tiny, flat, earlobes or none</td>
<td>Faith/Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Traditions</td>
<td>Height: tall, short, long legs, grew early/late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet/Hands: big, small, coarse, soft</td>
<td>Obsessions: thinks about a lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewelry: necklace, nose ring, piercings, bracelets, gauges, crowns, barrettes</td>
<td>Tattoos/Body Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attire: shirt, jeans, head wraps, beads, dress pants, boots, sarongs, sliders, shorts, sweatshirt, kilt, skirt, pumps, baseball hat, kimonos, tracht, sashes, coat, jacket, parka, Keram, belt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude: happy, sad, introvert, extrovert, positive, negative, hopeful, desolate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufferings: depression, autoimmune disease, loneliness, handicapped, denial, addiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write your own characteristics.
Create your own stories by using the prompts below. Take your stories any place you want to go!

Instructions: use one or a combination of settings to drive your story’s tension, pace, & excitement.

Settings—Element #3

- An empty grocery store
- A school full of dinosaurs
- A dairy farm
- A crypt inside a cemetery
- A planet far, far away
- The community center
- Inside a mountain
- A ship at sea
- A world of spirits
- On the back of a long-haired dog
- School
- A haunted house
- A world of Mythology
- In the principal’s office
- Inside a lamp
- The hairdresser’s shop
- A school for the psychically gifted
- A homeless shelter
- A nursing home or hospital
- In a car graveyard
- Inside a space ship
- On a limb of a magical treehouse
- In an underground bunker with many tunnels.
- In a world with the landscape all destroyed
- In a dog house or fish aquarium
- In a world where animals are the rulers
- A land of opposites
- A royal palace of kings and queens
- An ice cream shop

Write your own settings. Take your characters anywhere!
## Story Starters & Elements

Create your own stories by using the prompts below. Take your stories any place you want to go!

Instructions: use one or a combination of goals to drive your story’s tension, pace, & excitement.

### Goals—Element #4

| To find the secret entrance into a hidden world to save his/her | To believe in myself. |
| To learn from the family dog, who is a K9 superhero. | To help the community |
| To help solve climate change | To retrieve a magical artifact that no one believes exists. |
| To help a close friend, who’s dealing with a big family problem. | To build something new |
| To spy on the creepy, old man next door, only to discover he’s an ancient witch doctor. |  |
| To train my dog | To uncover an old family mystery that’s been plaguing the family for generations. |
| To win the pageant, the race, the contest | To believe in something more than myself. |
| To go on an adventure in the city museum that has been closed for 100 years. | To be king/queen |
| To turn my diary entries into a real book. | To run through the cemetery |
| To meet a new friend | To find my friend who disappeared through a magical treehouse |
| To go shopping for other people | To save the homeless shelter |

Write your own goal or goals for your character.
Story Starters & Elements

Create your own stories by using the prompts below. Take your stories any place you want to go!

Instructions: use one or a combination of conflicts to drive your story’s tension, pace, & excitement.

Conflicts—Element #5

A strange, eerie storm that came out of nowhere. I was scared. The lights went out.

The door was locked and the windows were covered in paper. My friends are mad at me.

All the food was gone. I was angry, but I felt bad about what I’d done at the same time.

A leprechaun showed up. I’m afraid I’m not good enough and will fail at this mission.

Finds the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but can’t lift it. Lost in the woods.

It’s dark and character can’t find way out of basement. Lost the magic ring.

The magic carpet stopped working. An army of zombies is on your porch.

Don’t know how to drive the car. Discovers the way back home, but the evil magician stands in the

The deer ate all the vegetables that were planted. A virus infects the water supply.

Some emotion you included in your character development section. The machine stopped working.

The character’s past failures. An addiction. Someone stole the time machine.

Write your own conflict or a combination of them.