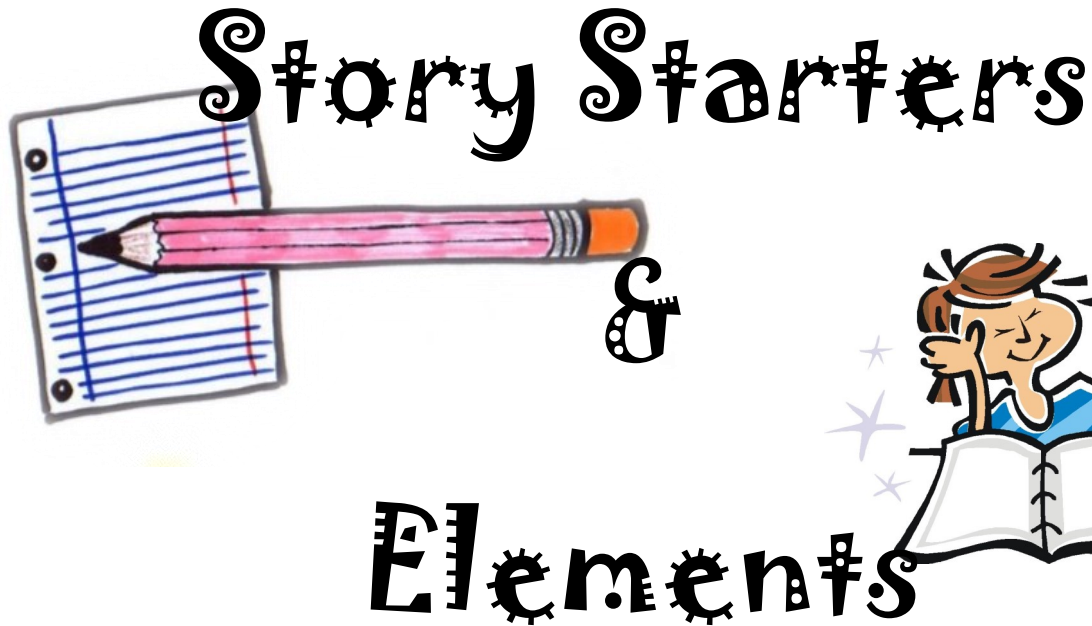


Story Starters & Elements

An illustration featuring a pink pencil with a silver eraser and a blue notepad with three binder holes on the left. To the right is a cartoon girl with brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, sitting and reading an open book. She has a yellow pencil in her hand and is surrounded by several small, light blue starburst shapes.

**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!

Sheri
Author S.A. Larsen



Story Starters & Elements

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 crept 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:

"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

Hair: long, short, curly, straight, bald, color, texture, dyed, shiny, dull

Likes, dislikes

Hopes and dreams

Eyes: color, size, shape, far/near/deep-set, shadowed, bright, pupils

Lips: big, small, thin, narrow, plump, dry, moist, lip-stick/gloss/chap

Fears and avoidances

Eyebrows—full, narrow, shallow, thin, angular, crooked, color, shade, tone.

Boy or girl

Gender

Weight: skinny, chubby, average

Cheekbones & Chin: high, deep, narrow, bony, pointy, broad, round

Ears: big, tiny, flat, earlobes or none

Faith/Religion

Height: tall, short, long legs, grew early/late

Family Traditions

Feet/Hands: big, small, coarse, soft

Obsessions: thinks about a lot

Favorites: color, food, movie, book, character, hobby, activity, season, dream, person/people, subjects, hat, clothes, sport, place, country,

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

Jewelry: necklace, nose ring, piercings, bracelets, gauges, crowns, barrettes

Tattoos/Body Art

Attitude: happy, sad, introvert, extrovert, positive, negative, hopeful, desolate

Sufferings: depression, autoimmune disease, loneliness, handicapped, denial, addiction

Write your own characteristics.





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 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.

