

Developing a Story

Directions: Choose and complete one of the following assignments:

1. Select a portrait—a painting or a photograph—and write a brief story featuring the subject of the portrait, adding traits such as height and tone of voice. Use the basic elements of a story: setting, character, plot, conflict, climax, and resolution. The main character should be revealed gradually through the elements of the story.
2. Write an original humorous toy story using your favorite childhood toys as characters. Make your story as original as possible.
3. Select one of the following beginnings as a starting place for your own story. Write a story, developing all the elements of fiction (setting, character, and plot):
 - a. There once lived a King's son who had a bride whom he loved very much.
 - b. There was once a wonderful musician, who went forlorn through a forest and thought of all manner of things, and when nothing was left for him to think about, he said: "Time is beginning to pass heavily on me here in the forest. I will fetch hither a good companion for myself."
 - c. There was once upon a time an old queen who was ill, and thought to herself, "I am lying on what must be my deathbed."
 - d. Once upon a time there was a girl who did nothing but spin and weave.
4. Write a story that leads to one of these endings:
 - a. On the rock, hidden beneath the Old Woman's rose bush, a tiny elf sat happily watching the party, one leg crossed over the other.
 - b. She came out of the water and lay down in the grass under the dazzling golden light. She noticed all the fruit on the trees and many green birds in the trees. She saw people coming through the meadow. She went out to meet them. They came up to her and took her hands and embraced her.
 - c. "I think we have learned much today," he said. They embraced and they danced for a long time between the darkness and the light.
 - d. After ridding the castle of cobwebs and bandits, the prince and princess became king and queen of the land. At last, rule was restored and I imagine they are living there still.
5. Write a story in which your main character sees things with unusual clarity, as if from above, and says what he or she sees very plainly.
6. Write a story about someone or something that travels from a beloved home and after many, many years returns to find it unchanged.
7. Write a story about someone or something that leaves a beloved home and returns by the same route after a long time to find it almost unrecognizable.