**Writing a children’s story planning sheet- based on Cinderella**

* + **How does the story start?:** A spoiled young girl’s wealthy father remarries a woman with two daughters.
  + **How does this happen?**: Cinderella’s mother dies and he wants to find someone to be a mother to her.
  + **What happens next- list events as you go**
    - Cinderella, very nice young girl, living happily with father and mother.
    - Mother gets sick and dies.
    - Father and Cinderella very sad.
    - Father decides to remarry a widow with 2 daughters of her own.
    - The father’s wife and daughters move in.
    - Soon after her father dies.
    - Cinderella is sad.
    - Stepmother and sisters take over the house and make Cinderella their slave.
    - They are very mean to her.
    - Cinderella stays nice.
    - They find out the prince is holding a ball to find a bride.
    - Stepmother and sisters plan to go.
    - Cinderella asks if she can go.
    - They say she can if she finishes her chores and has something to wear.
    - They take up all her time doing chores for them but she still manages to do everything and plans to wear her mother’s dress.
    - They go back on their promise and ruin her dress.
    - Cinderella is sad and goes to the back yard.
    - Fairy godmother comes and asks her what’s wrong
    - She tells her and fairy godmother makes her a dress and coachmen.
    - She says she has to be home by midnight.
    - Cinderella goes to the ball.
    - Prince and Cinderella fall in love.
    - Clock strikes 12 and Cinderella runs out of the palace but leaves glass slipper behind.
    - Prince declares he will marry whoever fits the slipper.
    - Prince goes house to house looking for Cinderella.
    - Stepmother locks Cinderella up in attic.
    - Stepsisters feet are too big for shoe for slipper when the prince comes.
    - Prince discovers another girl lives at the house and demands she tries on the shoe.
    - Cinderella comes down and fits the slipper.
    - Prince takes Cinderella away to be his bride.
    - They live happily ever after.

Once you have this step done then you are ready to write the story, and add details.

**Planning a children’s story- Tips**

**Consider the genre.**

If it’s an adventure story, you will want to think of a main character, an exciting or exotic setting, and a problem for the character to solve. If it’s a [funny story](https://writeshop.com/help-your-child-plan-a-funny-story/), you will need to decide on a main character who finds himself in a humorous situation.

**Pump out those ideas!**

Brainstorming should produce **more ideas than you will use**. If you can’t think of anything now, you *definitely* won’t have much to write about later. You might need to pick a new topic that you can tell more about.

**Start at the beginning.**

Talk about different ways the story could start. Ask questions to prompt ideas, such as:

* ***Who****could be the main character in your story? An animal? A person? A make-believe character?*
* ***What****problem might need to get solved?*
* ***When****does the story happen? One winter? Last Tuesday? Yesterday?*
* ***Where****does the story take place? In the kitchen? Under your bed? At the soccer field? On a strange planet?*

Once you’ve come up with ideas, write some of them down. Then pick your favorite “beginning” and write it down on a separate paper.

**Brainstorm for the story’s middle and end.**

Keep asking questions to think of ideas about how the problem in the story will be solved and how the story will end. Also think of things that will happen that will support the theme (lesson) you want someone to learn from reading your story.

**Beginning to write the story**

**Ask questions.** Think who, what, where, when, why, how, what if, etc. For example, suppose you wanted to write a funny story about a monster.,  It’s good to ask questions such as: *What funny situations might a monster find himself in? Could he get stuck in an elevator? Could he have trouble learning to skateboard? Or maybe he looks silly—a pink monster who wants to be scary but only ends up making people laugh.*

After tossing ideas around together, you might say: *OK. We’ve decided that Mike the Monster has bad breath. Why is having bad breath a problem? For the beginning of the story, let’s make a list of funny things that could happen because of his bad breath.*

As you come up with possibilities , write down the ideas in point form (see example below)

* no one likes Mike, green cloud when he talks, grass withers and dies, food spoils, paint peels, pets faint

**Middle**

Keep trying to think of how to include humorous elements such as ridiculous situations and silly solutions.

*Mike is a mess! What do you suppose would be some ways he could try to solve his breath problem?*

* eat mints, gargle with mouthwash, chew on parsley, wear a surgical mask, wear an astronaut helmet

*Then think of things that could happen afterwards. For example,what funny or ridiculous things could happen as he tries these different solutions?*

* his breath gets worse!, astronaut helmet explodes, buildings fall down, forest catches fire, cars melt

Brainstorming is about throwing out ideas. Don’t worry whether an idea is good or bad; just keep talking about funny situations that could happen. When you think of ideas that you like, add them to your list.

**Ending**

*How do you want the story to end? What solves the problem?*

* police chase Mike to city dump, lost and hungry—eats muddy shoe, rotten fish, moldy cheese, old tires, suddenly, flowers start to grow, people’s hair grows back, rainbow appears in sky, town people welcome Mike, everyone saves their garbage for him to keep his breath sweet

Remember you don’t have to use every idea. Pick the ones that will work best in your story.

**Story planning sheet- fill in the blanks**

**Who is/are your main character(s)?**

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**How does your story start?**

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**How does this happen?**

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**What happens next- (list events as you go)**

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**How is the problem in the story solved?**

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**How does your story end?**