



How to...

SUBMIT A STORY!

You can use your issue of *The Week Junior* to inspire a story—then enter it for a chance to be featured on the Story Pirates Podcast! Find out more at theweekjunior.com/creativewriting.



Where kids are the creative geniuses



The award-winning Story Pirates Podcast takes stories submitted by kids and turns them into comedy sketches and songs performed by professional comedians and musicians. “We love reading any and all stories by kids,” said Benjamin Salka, co-founder and chief executive officer of Story Pirates. You can find a special episode of Story Pirates featuring *The Week Junior* on Wondery and other major podcast platforms.

Try writing your own stories

Find out how to tap into the power of your imagination to capture your creative ideas.

Creative writing is a fun way to express your thoughts and emotions. One form of creative writing is a short story. “A story is like a playground for your imagination,” Lee Overtree, co-founder and creative director of Story Pirates, told *The Week Junior*. (To find out more about Story Pirates, see the box at top right.) “It’s a great place to experiment and try new ideas,” Overtree said. Here’s how you can get started.

Forget the rules

You may know what you would like your story to be about—or you might not, and that’s OK. “Sometimes it can feel intimidating to write a story because you have an idea of what the story has to be,” said Overtree. “But there is no right or wrong when you’re writing a story.” Creative writing doesn’t have to follow traditional rules of writing. When inspiration hits you, be ready to jot down the idea. Keep a pencil and notebook nearby or in your backpack or use a notes app on a device.



Dream up characters.

Start with a character

A great place to begin any story is with a main character. Think about who you would like this character to be, whether a person, an animal, or a mythical creature. Next, develop your character by answering a few questions: How does my character spend their time? What does my character love? What are they afraid of?

“Most important, ask yourself, What does my character want?” said Overtree. “Deciding what your character wants to happen in their life will be the engine that drives your story.” It can be anything! For example, one story written by Olivia, age 12, and featured on Story Pirates was about nachos that want to take over the planet.

Put an obstacle in their way

Once you know what your character wants, you can add drama or humor to your story by putting obstacles in their way. “This is where writing a story gets really fun,” said Overtree. “Those

obstacles can be annoying or even dangerous.” This is also when you can decide on the tone of your story. Ask yourself if you want your story to be serious or silly. “Many kids find that being silly is a great way to activate their imagination,” said Overtree. “So if you’re stuck for ideas about what obstacles to put in the way of your character, think of the funniest, weirdest thing you can.”

Read and revise

An important part of the creative writing process is continuing to work on what you wrote to try to make it even better. “Writing isn’t meant to be perfect the first time,” said Overtree. “That’s why we have drafts and revisions.” Try reading the first draft of your story out loud, and share it with a trusted family member or friend. Did your story make sense? Did it get the reaction you had in mind? For example, if you expected your friend to laugh, did they? You can go back to your story and make changes to get it to a place you’re happy with. Then enjoy it, whether your story is meant to be just for yourself or shared with family and friends.