


"Write Your Own Story" Activity Kit

(Approved by Cilla Lee-Jenkins,
Future Author Extraordinaire)



Cilla Lee-Jenkins: *This Book is a Classic* by Susan Tan; illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte / Ages 8–12

 An imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Looking for inspiration for your story? It's all around you!

Writing a story is hard work... just ask Cilla. Sometimes, you may even need a little help getting started. Luckily, there's inspiration everywhere. All you have to do is look around!

In this exercise, take a look at the objects, people, and places around you. What do the buildings or rooms look like? Is there someone you'd like to know (or imagine) more about? Is there anything eye-catching on a bookshelf or on a table near you? Write down the interesting things you see from your surroundings below (and who knows, it could be just the inspiration you need to start your story!).

People

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Places

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Things

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Other

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What kind of story do you want to write?

Do you want to write an action-adventure story or an epic fantasy? A mystery or a ghost story? Circle the topics that interest you the most to figure out what kind of story you want to write. Don't be afraid to blend genres and get creative!

Action

Fantasy

Mythology

Adventure

Friendship

Paranormal

Animals

Holiday

Science

Art

Magic

Space

Comedy

Music

Time travel

Dystopian

Mystery

Western

Fill in your own topic:

What's a great story without unforgettable characters?

Here's your chance to let your inner writer (and artist) out! Write down descriptions about the main characters in your story and sketch out how you envision them in your head.





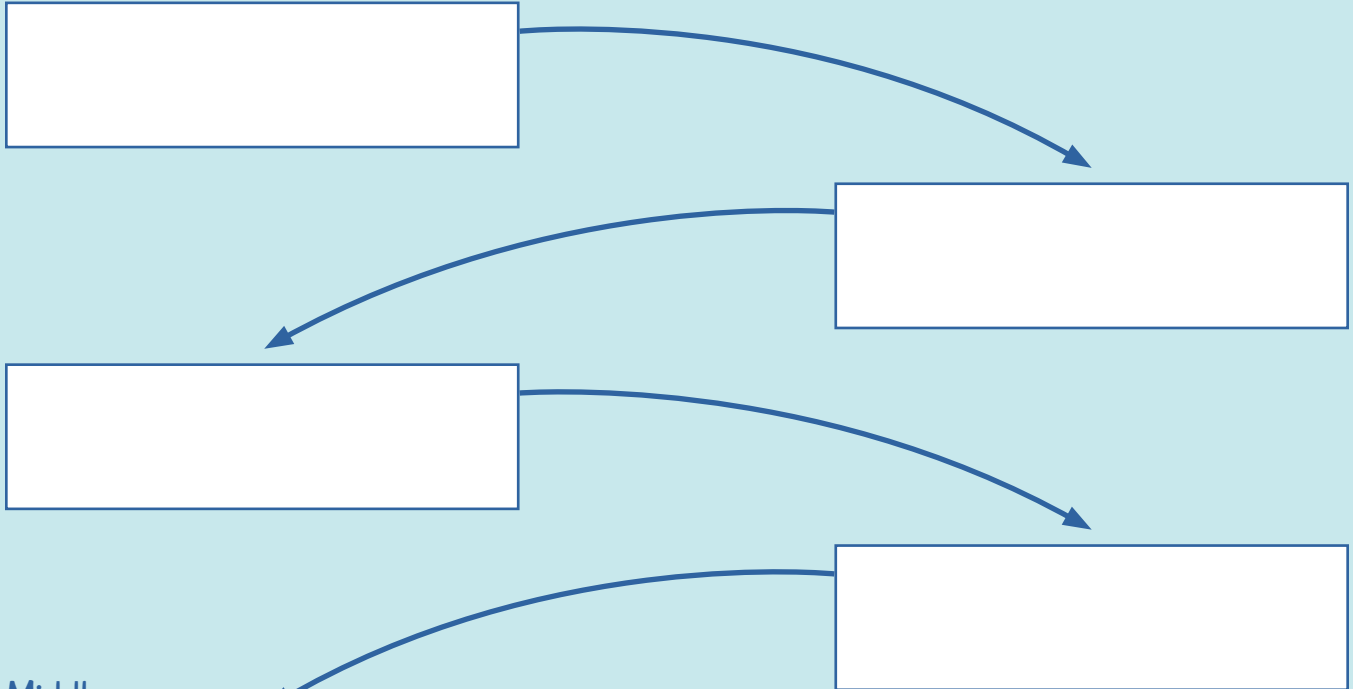




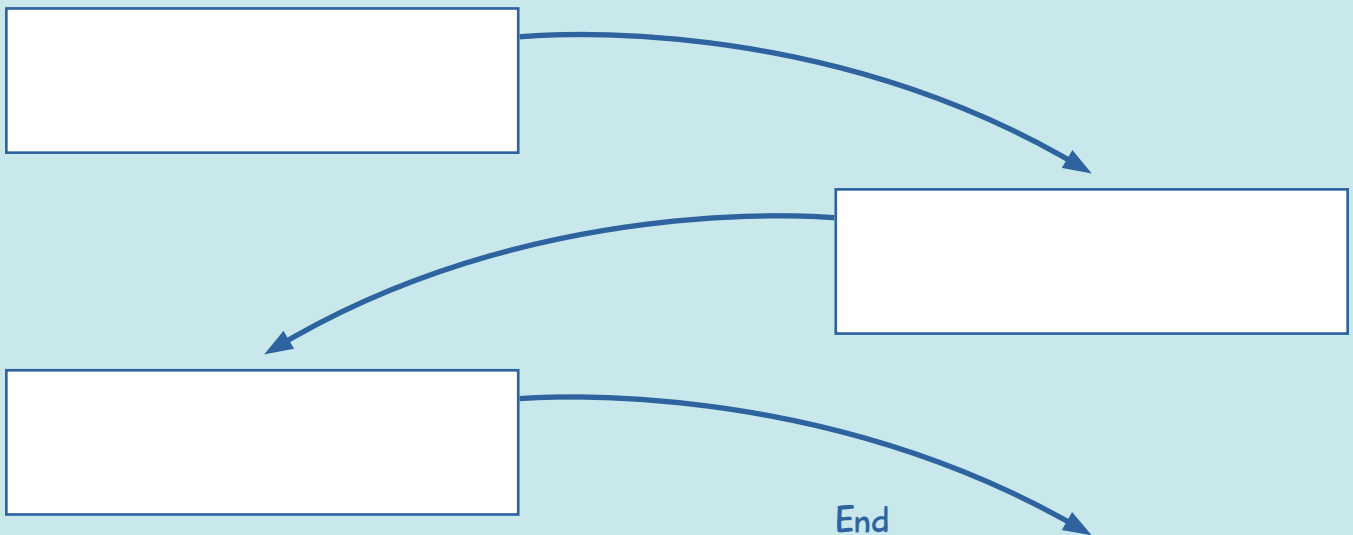
Map out your plot and string it all together on a storyboard!

Now that you've found your writing inspiration and figured out who your characters are and what your story is about, it's time to map out your plot and get writing! What is the beginning of the story? The middle? The end? Fill in the key plot points below and write down notes on how you picture your story coming together.

Beginning



Middle



End

An empty rectangular box for the 'End' section.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

