

Writing Group Stories

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Here is an example of the list of questions I might ask students in order to create a group story. This formula is basically, Little Red Riding Hood. (Two character live together. One sends the other on an important errand, then warns that person about someplace they are not supposed to go.)

You may ask each student a question or consolidate a few of the questions to suit the number of students in your class. I like to ask every person to contribute, even an adult who just happens to come into the room. It helps to have adult ideas interspersed into the story and it helps to establish the notion that every person makes a contribution. *(And we respect everyone's contribution)*

First Paragraph (Once upon a time...)

1. Choose a creature who will be the Main Character of our story.
2. Name it.
3. Choose a creature to be the friend.
4. Name it.
5. Describe the place where they lived. What kind of house? How Big? What was it made of? What color? What was it near?
6. Give the Main Character on special skill.

Second Paragraph (One day...)

7. Tell what they were doing in the house that day.
8. Tell where the friend asked the Main Character to go.
9. Why? Who was he supposed to see?
10. Tell where the Friend warned the Main Character not to go on the way.

3rd Paragraph (It was _____, so _____ put on.....)

11. What season was it? Tell how the Main Character got dressed and ready.
12. Tell how the MC said goodbye to the Friend.

4th Paragraph (The weather was _____. It made _____ feel.....)

13. Describe the air and land around the MC as he walked out the door.
14. Tell how the MC was feeling.
15. Tell how far or for how long the MC walk before stopping.
16. What made the MC stop?

5th Paragraph (Just then, _____ noticed...)

17. Something is going to make the MC go the wrong way. Either because it was so scary or because it was so tempting. Was it something the MC saw, heard or smelled? What was it?
18. Describe the MC's reaction.
20. The MC entered the Forbidden place. Tell how the MC got captured or trapped at that moment.

6th Paragraph (Suddenly, _____ saw...)

21. Next, the Trouble Maker appeared. What kind of creature was it? Describe it.
22. What did the Trouble Maker threaten to do to the Main Character?

7th Paragraph (Thinking quickly, _____ started to) or (_____ said to the _____, "I challenge you to" or "If you let me go, I'll ...")

23. How could the MC figure out a way to use his special skill to get away from the Trouble Maker? (Maybe they can become friends, he could frighten the trouble maker, put him to sleep, challenge him to a contest, offer to help him in some way, etc.)
24. How does the MC get away?

8th Paragraph (It took _____ _____ hours (minutes) to get to ...)

25. How long does it take for the MC to get to the place he was supposed to go?
26. What was the person doing when he got there?
27. How did the MC complete the errand?

9th Paragraph (When _____ finally to home,)

28. When the MC got home, did he tell the whole story or did he leave out the part about going into the forbidden place?
29. Did the friend ever find out?
30. What did the Friend say?