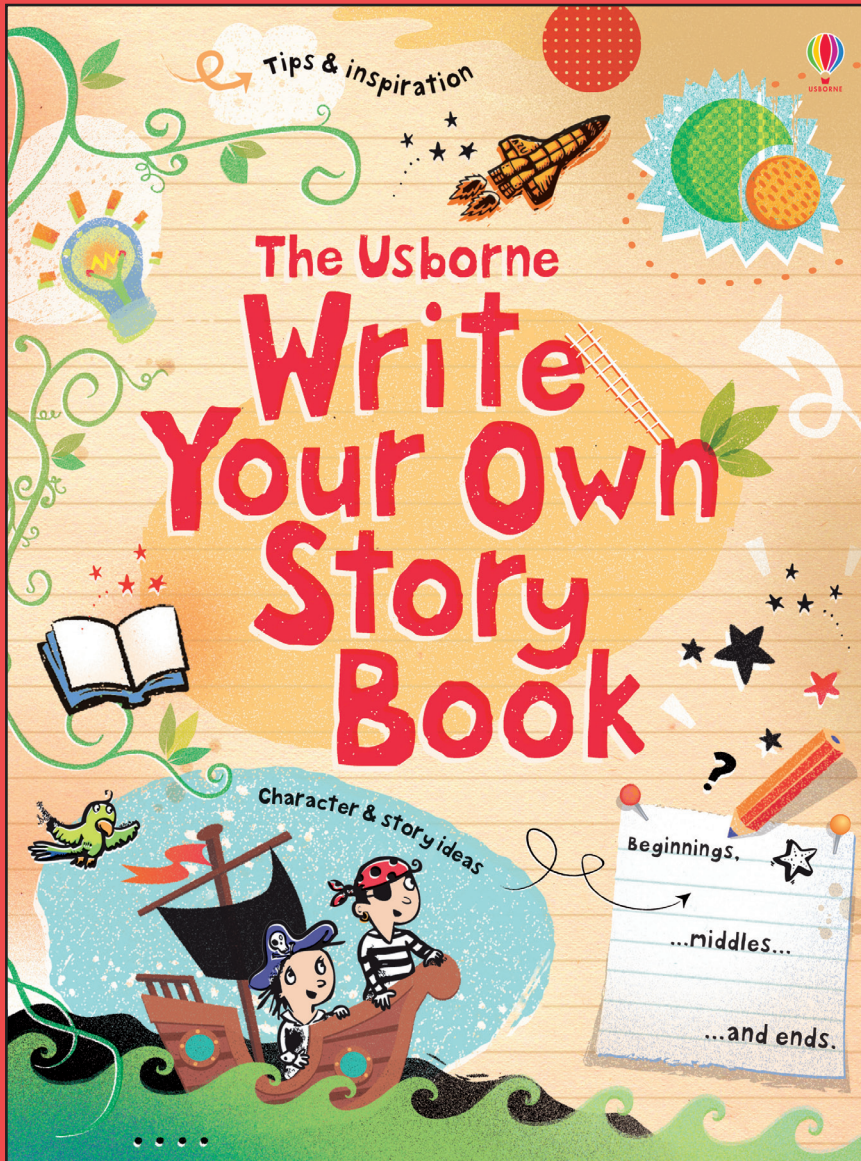




Make it an USBORNE weekend!

Creative writing activities from



Getting started

(Write your story title here.)

To get you started on your first story, here's an outline with blanks for you to fill in the details.

You could choose characters, settings and actions from the lists on these pages or invent some of your own.

Character suggestions

- clown
- space man
- schoolchild
- super villain
- fairy
- naughty twins
- baby elephant
- explorer
- knight
- talking cat
- detective
- bad-tempered giant
- lonely orphan
- dancer
- sports star
- opera diva
- friendly dinosaur
- cunning sleuth
- long-distance runner
- puppet master



Once upon a time there was a...
(Describe your main character here.)

Who lived in/went to...
(Describe your setting here.)

One day...
(Something happens to get the story started.)

And so...
(What does your character do next and what does he or she hope might happen as a result?)

However...

(Something goes wrong.)

Then...

(How does your character try to solve the problem?)

Eventually...

(Does your character succeed?)

In the end...

(Bring your story to a close here.)

Setting suggestions

- spooky castle
- deep, dark forest
- long ago
- desert island
- sports stadium
- future city
- king's palace
- little cottage
- boarding school
- beach resort
- mysterious ruins
- underground maze
- land made of cake
- pirate ship
- museum



Possible story starters – the character...

- sets out on a journey
- finds a treasure map
- discovers he or she can fly
- puts on a show
- goes shopping
- enters a contest
- arrives in a strange land
- receives an invitation
- moves house
- decides to have a party
- discovers a secret door
- runs away from home
- becomes invisible
- makes a new friend
- finds a magic pencil



Making up a character

When you write a story, it's your job to create interesting, believable characters who will capture the reader's imagination.

You don't have to tell the reader everything about your characters, but the more *you* know about them the more convincing they'll be.

To start building up a character, fill in this diagram with words describing him or her.



Who or what is he, she or it?

Appearance:

Strengths and weaknesses:

Name:

Personality:

Likes and dislikes:

Goals and ambitions:

(Write your story title here.)

A day in the life

Once you've decided what your character is like, it's what he or she says and does in different situations that helps to drive a story. Imagine it's the strangest, most wonderful day of your character's life and write a short story about it.

.....



Acting it out

The best way to bring your character to life is to describe how he or she acts. For example, you don't need to say a character is generous if you show him doing or saying something generous.

You can find more help with building characters on page 86.



Every picture tells a story

Write a story about the picture on the right. You could write about the whole scene, or just one part that catches your attention. You could even choose to write about something that's just out of sight.

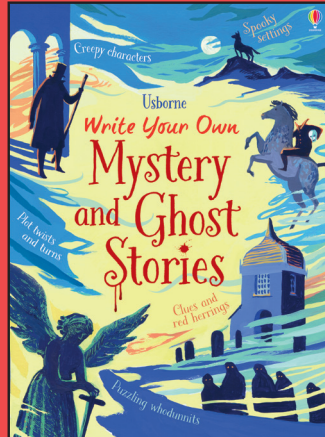
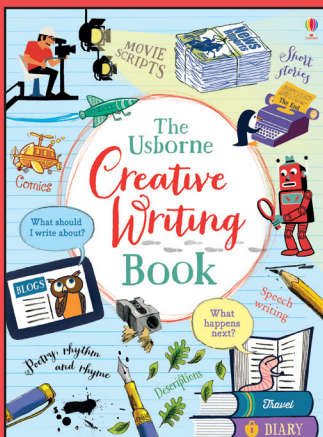
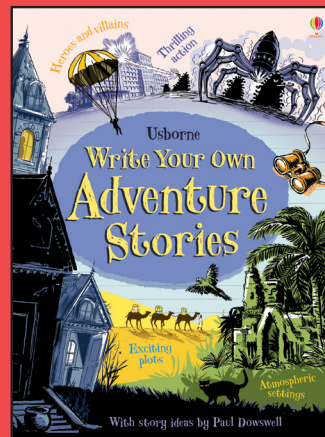
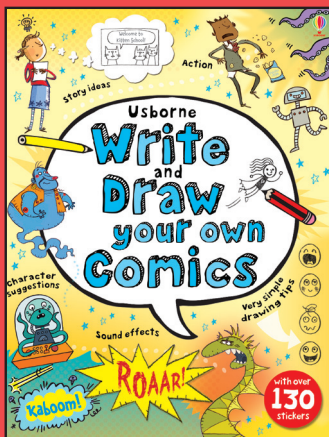
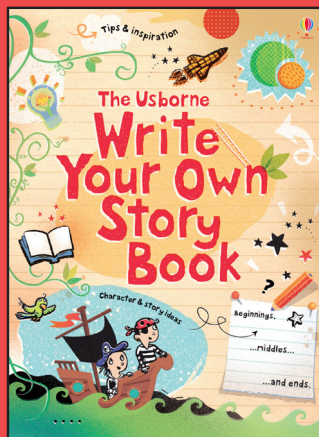
Questions to think about

- Where is this room?
Is it in a huge mansion or a tiny bungalow?
In the countryside or at the edge of a big city?
Inside a virtual reality game?
- Who's the old lady? (If that's what she really is...)
- Who is the man outside the window and what is he doing?
- Who shot the tiger?
- What's beyond the mountains in the distance?
- Why is the eagle there?
- What are the mice up to?
- Where does the archway behind the bookshelves lead?
- Who's the woman in the painting?
- Who does the crystal ball on the table belong to?



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