



# How to Write a Good Story with Characters and Plot

KS2 ENGLISH

CREATIVE WRITING

Ages 9-14



4 min read

## What Makes a Great Story?

Every brilliant story needs two main ingredients: **characters** that readers care about and a **plot** that keeps them turning the pages. A **character** is a person, animal, or creature in your story, while a **plot** is everything that happens to them. Together, they create the magic that makes stories unforgettable.

## Creating Believable Characters

Your characters need to feel real, even if they're dragons or robots. Give them **personality traits** - things like being brave, funny, shy, or stubborn. Think about what they want and what stops them from getting it. A character might want to find treasure, win a race, or make a friend. These desires drive the story forward.

Think of it like creating a new friend in your imagination. You wouldn't just say 'here's a person' - you'd describe what makes them special: their laugh, their fears, their dreams, what annoys them.

The best characters also have **flaws**. Maybe your hero is impatient, or scared of the dark, or too stubborn to ask for help. These weaknesses make characters interesting and real. Readers love seeing characters grow and change as the story unfolds.

## Building a Gripping Plot

A strong plot has **three main parts**. First comes the **beginning**, where we meet characters and learn what problem they face. Then the **middle** is where things get complicated - obstacles appear, conflicts happen, and tension builds. Finally, the **ending** resolves everything and shows how the character has changed.

Think of it like climbing a mountain. You start at the bottom and begin the journey, the climb gets harder in the middle with steep sections and challenges, then you finally reach the peak and enjoy the view.

The secret to a gripping plot is **conflict** – problems your characters must solve. This might be fighting a villain, overcoming fear, competing in a contest, or discovering a secret. Without conflict, nothing exciting happens, and readers get bored.

## Putting It All Together

Start by creating one character you find interesting. Write down **five personality traits** and one major flaw. Then think of a problem they face – something important to them. What do they need to do? What might stop them? What could they learn? Answer these questions, and you'll have the foundation for a fantastic story.

Remember: the best stories come from writers who take time to know their characters deeply and care about what happens to them. When you care, your readers will too.