Narrative writing planner

Plan your story before you start. A clear problem and a proper ending matter more than lots of events.

5 minutes
Plan on this sheet

30 minutes
Write

7 minutes
Read it back and fix it

Story idea Copy the prompt, then write your idea in a few words

Main character

Name and age

What do they want?

One detail that shows what they are like

Setting

Where and when?

Something I can see or hear

Something I can smell or feel

Story map

Write a few words in each part

Orientation	Complication	Rising events	Climax	Resolution
Who, where and when? Start with action or a sound.	What goes wrong? What does the character want?	Two things that make the problem harder.	The most exciting or tense moment.	How is it solved? How has the character changed?

My first sentence Hook the reader from the start

Title

Show, don't tell

~~Mia was scared.~~

Mia's hands shook as she reached for the door handle.

Strong verbs

- crept, tiptoed, sprinted
- grabbed, snatched, clutched
- whispered, gasped, muttered
- tumbled, crashed, shattered

Sentence starters

- Suddenly,
- Without warning,
- Moments later,
- As soon as
- Meanwhile,
- Just as

Use your senses

What can your character see, hear, smell, touch and taste?

Last 7 minutes

- ☐ A new paragraph for each new time, place or speaker
- ☐ Speech marks around spoken words
- ☐ The ending solves the problem
- ☐ Capital letters and full stops
- ☐ Spelling of tricky words

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