

## Lesson 17 The Writing Process: Story

Writing a story can take you into a different world or help you express your ideas about your own world. First, review the steps of the writing process.

**Prewrite:** Choose a topic. Collect ideas. Make lists or charts. Organize ideas.

**Draft:** Write ideas down on paper in sentences.

**Revise:** Fix mistakes in draft. Add details. Change things around to make the writing better. Rewrite the sentences.

**Proofread:** Check for final mistakes in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Publish:** Make a final, error-free copy. Share with readers.

### Prewrite

Stories can be completely different, but they all have certain features.

- A story tells about made-up **characters**—people, animals, or both.
- A story has a **setting** that tells where and when the action takes place.
- A story has a **plot** that includes a problem that needs to be solved.
- An interesting **beginning, middle, and end** make a story fun to read.
- **Describing words** tell about the characters, setting, and events.

Look at the story ideas you developed on pages 46 and 47. Choose one of those ideas and begin to explore it here.

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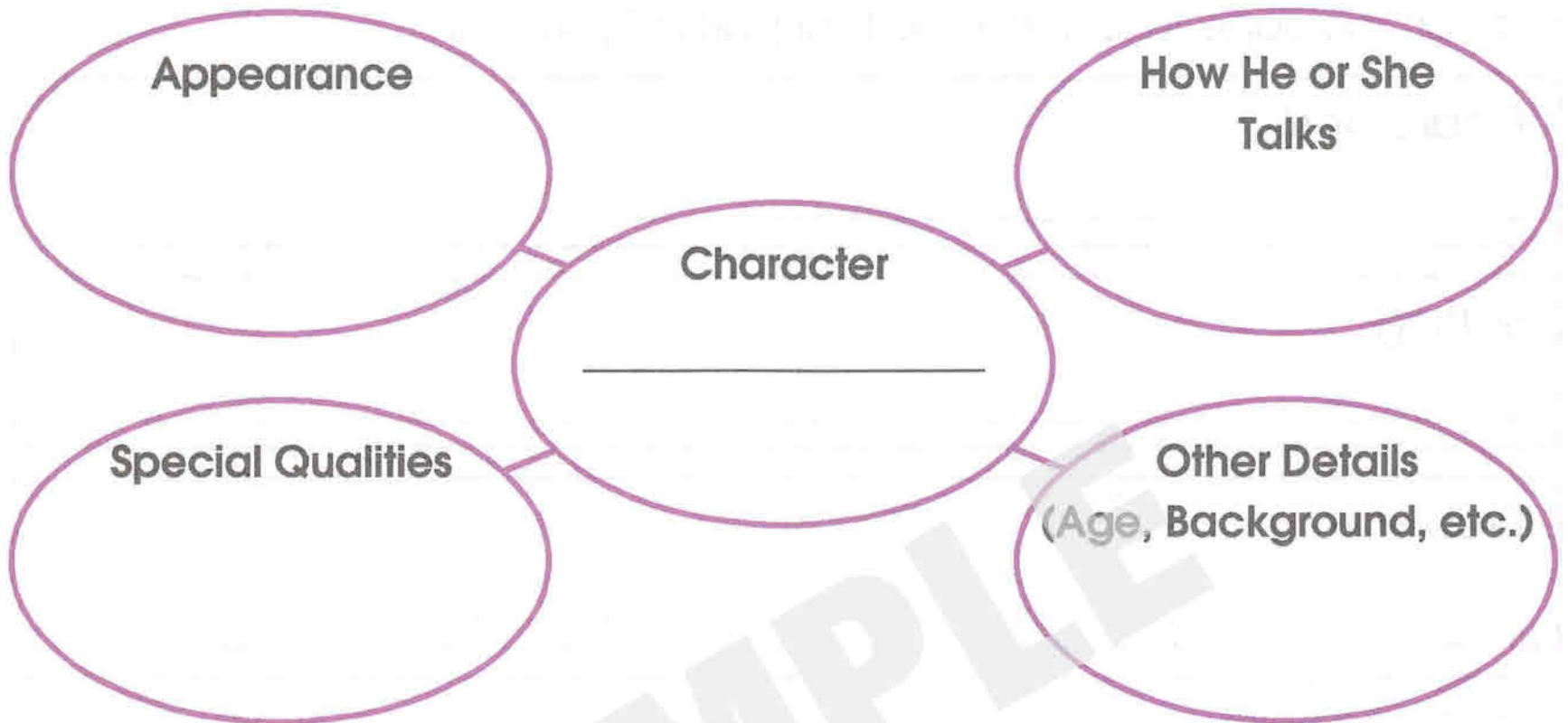
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Now, work on the main character of your story. Use this idea web to record details about how he or she looks, acts, speaks, and so on.



Answer these questions about your setting and plot.

What is the setting of your story? Consider these issues: place or location, season, time of day, weather conditions.

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What is the character's problem?

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What does the character do to try to solve the problem? Does it take more than one try?

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So far, you have chosen a topic and collected ideas. Now, it is time to put your ideas in order. Think about the story you are about to tell. Use the story map on this page to list the important parts of your story.

Character(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_Setting  
\_\_\_\_\_Problem  
\_\_\_\_\_Plot: Beginning  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Plot: Middle  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Plot: End  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_





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### Revise

As you begin to revise your own draft, try to pretend that you are reading the work for the very first time. This will help you find any mistakes.

Answer the questions below about your draft. Ask a friend to read your story and answer the questions, too. If the answer is "no" to any of these questions, those are the areas that might need improvement. Feel free to make marks on your draft, so you know what needs more work.

- Did you give details about an interesting character and a setting?
- Did you include a problem and a solution in your plot?
- Did you tell events in an order that makes sense?
- Did you create pictures in your readers' minds with well-chosen words?
- Did you use dialogue to help readers learn about characters and to move the story forward?
- Did you enclose characters' words in quotation marks?
- Did you describe how things look, sound, smell, feel, and taste?
- Did you use sentences of different lengths and styles?

Kristi began to write a story. Here are some examples of punctuating dialogue. Notice how the tag lines, quotation marks, and commas are used.

"Where did you go for so long?" Ma called when she saw Pa.

Pa put down the sack he was carrying. It was about the size of a tractor. "Well, there weren't any potatoes in town," he answered.

"So, what did you do?" asked Ma, curiously.

Pa spoke proudly, "Well, I just dug some up along the way back home."

Ma was shocked. "You don't mean you dug up Mr. Spencer's potatoes!" she cried.





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### Proofread

It is best to proofread for just one kind of error at a time. Read through your story once for capital letters. Read it again for end punctuation. Then, read it again for spelling. Here is a checklist to help you as you proofread your revised story. Ask a friend to proofread your story, too.

- \_\_\_ Each sentence begins with a capital letter.
- \_\_\_ Each sentence ends with the correct punctuation (period, question mark, or exclamation point).
- \_\_\_ Dialogue is punctuated correctly.
- \_\_\_ Each sentence states a complete thought.
- \_\_\_ All words are spelled correctly. (If you're not sure, check a dictionary.)

When proofreaders work, they use certain symbols. Using these symbols makes their job easier. They will make your job easier, too.

- <sup>T</sup> three little lines under a letter mean that something should be capitalized. Write the capitalized letter above it.
- Write in a missing end mark like this: ○ ? !
- Add a comma and quotation marks like this: "he said."
- Fix misspelled ~~words~~ <sup>words</sup> like this.

Use these symbols as you proofread your story. Read your writing out loud. Sometimes, it is easier to catch mistakes when reading out loud.

