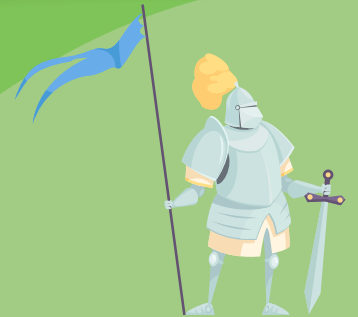




CHILDREN'S STORY COMPETITION

**LEARNING
RESOURCE**



Judged by Cressida Cowell
Waterstones Children's Laureate (2019 – 2021)



**CLOSING
DATE 22ND
MAY 2020**

WELCOME



Calling all story lovers everywhere!

It's Settle Stories 10th year. To celebrate we are launching the Yorkshire Festival of Story, which will take place in the idyllic Dales town of Settle 31st July to 2nd August 2020.

The Yorkshire Festival of Story celebrates the best storytellers in Yorkshire today. Now, we want to hear from the next generation of storytellers.

As we prepare for the festival, we're launching a fantastic new children's story competition with Cressida Cowell, Waterstones Children's Laureate (2019 – 2021). There are a host of fantastic prizes including a personalised response from author Cressida Cowell for all the winners.

We're looking for stories up to 750 words set in Yorkshire.

The competition is open to anyone aged 7-11 years living in the UK. So if your pupils have a story in them, now is the time for them to start writing.

I created this resource to inspire creativity as well as develop your pupils' writing skills. This pack contains some great ideas for you to use in the classroom. These exercises are sure to get kids' brains whizzing. There are lots of tips and techniques to help them create fabulous stories.

Competition judge Cressida Cowell is looking forward to reading your pupils' amazing stories so don't forget to submit via the website by 22nd May 2020.

www.settlestories.org.uk/whats_on/childrens_story_competition

Good luck!

Sita Brand
Artistic Director



PRIZES

The two winners and the four runners-up will:

- get a personalised response from author Cressida Cowell
- have their stories exhibited at the festival.
- have their stories performed at the Yorkshire Festival of Story by a professional storyteller.

Alongside these prizes, winners will also receive:



1ST PLACE

- A storyteller visit to their school.
- Signed copies of Cressida Cowell's *The Wizards of Once* series and the first *How to Train Your Dragon* book.
- A signed print from Cressida Cowell.
- Family ticket to an event of your choice at the Yorkshire Festival of Story 2020.

- Signed copies of Cressida Cowell's *The Wizards of Once* series and the first *How to Train Your Dragon* book.
- A signed print from Cressida Cowell.
- Family ticket to an event of your choice at the Yorkshire Festival of Story 2020.



2ND PLACE

- Signed copies of *The Wizard of Once* book 1.
- A signed print from Cressida Cowell.



RUNNERS-UP



Discover ancient myths and folktales. Unlock the stories that have shaped our world. Challenge the stories of today.

Experience the power of story with celebrity guests, award-winning storytellers, captivating performances in unexpected venues and more.

Celebrating Settle Stories 10th year, the Yorkshire Festival of Story will see us hit the road with events and installations across the county. All roads lead to Settle for our most phenomenal festival to date.

Join us from 31st July to 2nd August as we take over the Dales town of Settle as the labyrinth of ginnels, cobbled courtyards, and historic buildings come alive.

At this year's festival we're working with a host of writers and storytellers including:

Joanne Harris MBE, Guest Festival Director

joanne-harris.co.uk

Cressida Cowell, Waterstones Children's Laureate

cressidacowell.co.uk

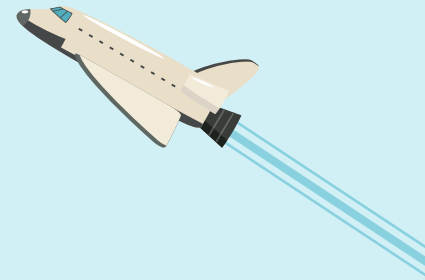
Kevin Crossley-Holland, Children's author and poet

kevincrossley-holland.com



**JOIN US AT
THE YORKSHIRE
FESTIVAL OF STORY**

[settlestories.org.uk/
whats_on/festival](http://settlestories.org.uk/whats_on/festival)



Where do you get your ideas?

This is a common question for writers, storytellers and artists. Ideas come from everywhere, from magazines, newspapers and books, around you in shops, the playground or park or you can find them closer to home under the bed, in the garden or in a cupboard.

To help your children get started and their brains whizzing with ideas try these exercises in the classroom.

1. List and describe five things you wouldn't like to touch.
2. Take a minor character from a fairytale and write the story from their point of view. (e.g. the lizard who becomes a footman in Cinderella)
3. Write about the craziest thing you'd like to do once.



Fun story facts about Yorkshire

Famous Yorkshire writers include:

- Joanne Harris
- The Bronte Sisters
- Alan Bennett
- Margaret Drabble
- J.B. Priestley
- Ted Hughes
- Barry Hines



Famous stories set in Yorkshire include:

- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- Kes by Barry Hines
- Dracula by Bram Stoker
- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot
- The Year of the Runaways by Sunjeev Sahota

Famous Yorkshire Folk:

- Guy Fawkes (1570 – 1606) conspirator
- Dick Turpin (1706 1739) highwayman
- David Hockney (1937 -) painter
- Jessica Ennis-Hill (1986 -) athlete
- Judi Dench (1934 -) actress
- Amy Johnson (1903 -) pilot
- The Brownlee brothers (1988 & 1990 -) athletes

Famous Yorkshire saying:

'Ear all, see all, say **nowt**; Eat all, sup all, pay **nowt**; And if iver tha **does owt** fer **nowt** – Allus **do** it fer thissen.

Translation:

'Hear all, see all, say nothing; Eat all, drink all, pay nothing; And if ever you **do** anything for nothing – always **do** it for yourself.

What is Yorkshire famous for?



Industrial Heritage



The Humber Bridge



Yorkshire Pudding



Yorkshire Dales



Bradford Mela



Ribbleshead Viaduct



Agricultural Shows



Sheep Shearing



Cricket



Tour de Yorkshire



Leeds Festival



A 'Proper' Brew



What five things do you think of when you think of Yorkshire?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Yorkshire Story Setting



Sum up your story setting in a brief paragraph...

Is your story set in a real or imaginary place in Yorkshire **REAL** or **IMAGINARY**?

Draw your story setting here...



What can you see? _____

What can you hear? _____

What can you smell? _____

What can you taste? _____

Building Characters

At the heart of a good story is a strong character. Get your children to think about what goes on inside their characters rather than what they look like. Encourage them to be as specific as possible.

For example, in answer to the question, what does your character want? Don't say, "to be famous". Say, "to win the 100 metres in the Olympics at Tokyo 2020". Make sure that the children can really 'see' their characters behaving or doing the activity or task. Encourage your pupils to be as specific as possible.

Ask the children to think about and write down the following:

- Name of character
- What do they want?
- What are their skills?
- What makes them angry?
- What makes them sad?
- What makes them frightened?
- What makes them happy?
- Who are their friends and enemies?



WRITING TIP

The feelings, thoughts and emotions that go on inside a character are more important than physical descriptions.



Creating Characters

Around the outside of the body, write down words/phrases to describe how your character appears to others.

On the inside, write down what is going on inside your character. This includes their thoughts, feelings and emotions.

Name of character: _____



Setting and Character



Now that you know the setting and your main character answer the following questions

1. What does your character know about the setting?

2. What does your character notice about their surroundings?

3. How does your character view the world around them?

People Place Plot Writing Exercise



Where does your story take place? Describe the place.

Who is your main character?

What does your character want?

Who or what is stopping them from getting what they want?

Now write your story.

More ways to create stories

Every good story requires conflict. This conflict might be a challenge or problem that drives the action of the story. Use these exercises with your children to inspire stories which have conflict in them.

Character Conflict Exercise

Think of a character

- What does your character want?
- Who or what is trying to stop your character from getting what they want?
- How does your character get what they want?

Character Conflict Exercise

Think of a treasure

- Where is it?
- Who might want it?
- How do they go about getting it and what stops them from getting it?

Two characters, one task

Think of two characters

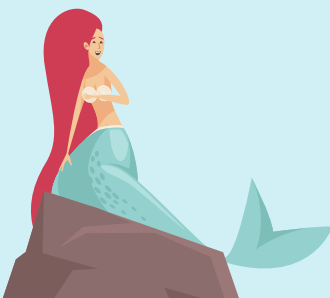
- Character 1 wants to do something. What is it?
- Character 2 is trying to stop them. How?
- What happens?



WRITING TIP

Show, don't tell.

E.g. Mary was cold. **(tell)**.
Mary pulled her hat down over her ears and turned her face away from the wind. **(show)**



Six types of story conflict

Conflict is essential to a good story. All stories will have at least one type of struggle. Some stories will have elements of more than one type of conflict.

Have the children think about the types of conflict that appear in their story. Discuss in pairs which types of conflict their story has.

Character vs Character

E.g. Snow White vs the wicked queen.

Character vs Society

E.g. The Beast is shunned by society in Beauty and the Beast.

Character vs Self

E.g. Elsa fights the thought inside her head in Frozen.

Character vs Nature

E.g. Moana fights the treacherous ocean.

Character vs Technology

E.g. The Cyborg is sent to kill the human in Terminator.

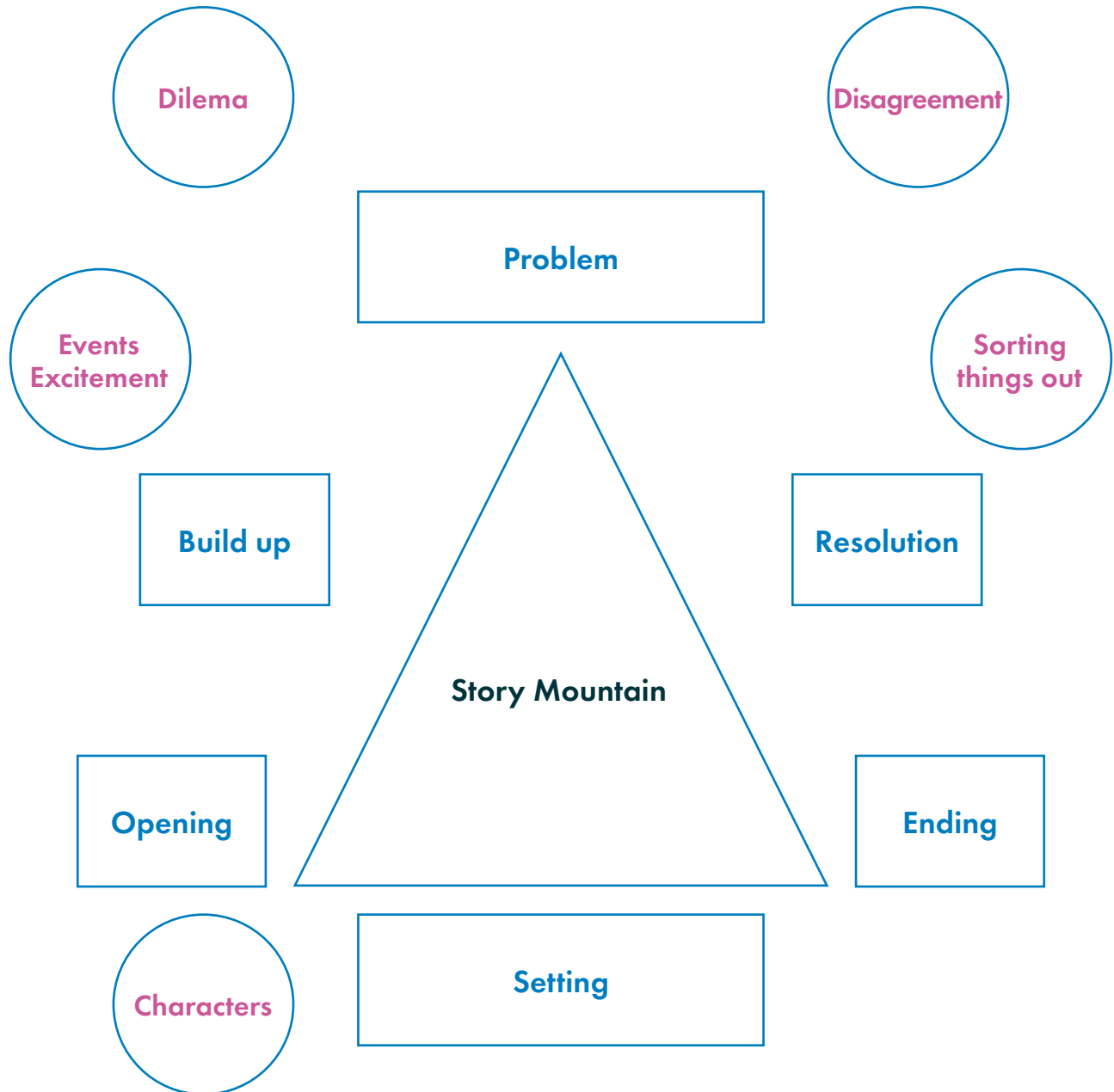
Character vs Supernatural

E.g. Harry battles Lord Voldemort with wits and magical powers.





Use the Story Mountain to plan your story



Rules of three and fairy tales

Here at Settle Stories we love folk and fairy tales. These traditional tales have strong universal themes and help us make sense of the world. They have strong beginnings which create a connection with readers.

The words, "Once upon a time..." are both familiar as well as promising something new and exciting. The characters, while simple are effective. They tell us about the qualities of the character rather than their physical attributes. What the character wants is clear.

The best stories are those that are memorable. An effective way to achieve this is a technique from folk and fairy tales; the Rule of Three. For example, the Three Billy Goats Gruff, Goldilocks and the Three Bears or the Three Little Pigs.

Sometimes you can use the Rule of Three to build tension and then find a resolution or a twist. You can do this through using a repeating phrase. For example, in Goldilocks and the Three Bears there are three bowls of porridge. When Goldilocks tasted them, they were too hot, too cold, or just right. The beds Goldilocks tried were too hard, too soft, and just right.

In your story what rules of three might you use?



WRITING TIP

Don't overdo repetition. It isn't right for every story.



Finishing your story

A good story takes time. It's important to check spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as the story structure. Editing can be fun too. When the stories are written, put them away and come back to them on another day with fresh eyes.

Then in pairs, invite the children to check the following:

1. Spelling, grammar and punctuation

- Check spelling and grammar and correct typos.

2. Action

- Is there a clear conflict in the story? Does the action make sense?

3. Language

- Avoid too many adjectives and adverbs. Remove all but the strongest or most unusual. Avoid clichés. Consider using metaphor and simile instead of an adjective.

4. Characters

- Are the characters believable? Does the main character face an emotional change in some way?

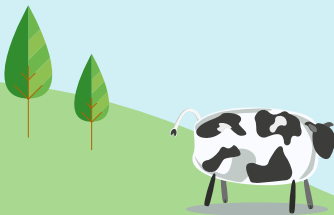
5. Opening and ending paragraphs

- Does the story capture your attention from the start? Is the ending satisfying?



WRITING TIP

In general the active voice makes writing stronger and more direct. For example saying, **Andy stole my purse (active voice)** is stronger than **my purse was stolen by Andy (passive voice)**.



THREE WRITING TIPS FROM CRESSIDA COWELL



TIP 1

Writing is like telling a really big lie

The more detail you put into your writing, and the more you base it on a tiny grain of truth, the more it comes alive in your reader's head. The example I use for this tip is from *How to Train Your Dragon*. If I say to you, 'Gobber has a big red beard', you can see the image in your head a bit, but not very well. If I say that, 'Gobber has a beard like exploding fireworks', or, 'Gobber has a beard like a hedgehog struck by lightning', you can see the image much more clearly. An extension to this is to think about your senses when you're describing. If you use words that encourage your reader to smell, hear, taste, see or touch, then your story is more compelling.

TIP 2

Research is a boring word for something REALLY exciting

If you're stuck for where to start a story, then surprising facts about the real world can give you loads of ideas. For example, I read somewhere that Vikings trained cats for battle, because when you're sword-fighting an opponent, it's very difficult to sword fight when a cat is attacking your head. This gave me an idea that I then put in one of my books (*How to Fight a Dragon's Fury*). Many of my dragons in *How to Train Your Dragon* are based on extraordinary fish: for example, the Monstrous Strangler Dragon is transparent, like a Barrel-Eye fish. For *The Wizards of Once*, I did a huge amount of reading about Ancient Britain: the Iron Warrior Fort is the same shape as an Iron Age Hill Fort, and the ancient forest Kingley Vale in Sussex gave me the setting for the Wildwood. Both history and the natural world are full of unbelievable facts and questions that you can base stories on.

TIP 3

Draw a map of your imaginary place

A map is a very useful starting point for a story. Many great books begin with a map – *Treasure Island*, for example, or *Peter Pan*. I use maps, too, for every new world. Draw a map of your imaginary place. Give it boundaries, which can be either sea or land, and give it place names. How long would it take to get from place to place? Are there any obstacles? Maps encourage you to think about your characters too, because as soon as your settings have names, you start to wonder who lives there.



HOW YOU CAN WIN

We are looking for stories that:

- are set in Yorkshire
- are imaginative
- have memorable characters
- have an exciting plot

Don't forget that the competition closes on 22nd May 2020 at 6pm.

All entries must be submitted online through the portal at www.settlestories.org.uk/whats_on/childrens_story_competition/ where you will also find a full set of rules and competition Terms and Conditions.

Postal entries will not be accepted.

Join us at the Yorkshire Festival of Story where winning stories to this competition will be read by a professional storyteller.

Find out more about the festival:
www.settlestories.org.uk/whats_on/festival



Settle Stories



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