

## Planning a Story

When planning a story, there are a number of things you need to think about. Firstly, let's think about your punctuation.

- You **MUST** remember to put in all full stops and capital letters.
- Use a mixture of simple and complex sentences. (Short, simple sentences are great for building tension.)
- Make sure that you use commas in all lists.
- Use commas to divide complex sentences into their parts.
- Every question needs a question mark. (Will you remember to use them?)
- Use exclamation marks, but don't go over the top! ("Stop!" he yelled.)
- Use paragraphs to divide up events and for speech.  
"Every new speaker needs a new paragraph," the teacher said.  
"We know," replied the class.
- Use apostrophes to show ownership. (The cat's paw.)
- Use apostrophes for contractions. (do not = don't will not = won't)
- Don't forget speech marks. ("Hello," said the boy, "Are you ok?")
- You could use a colon for 'because'. Don't do it every time! :
- You could use semi-colons to divide sentences and put in extra information.



- Try to use brackets for an aside to the reader. Easy marks!

The goblin chased the boy through the woods. (I'm pleased I wasn't there!)

- Always try to use good adjectives. (Describing words.) Practise at home by writing an adjective into your computer and then using the

thesaurus button to find better ones. (The princess was beautiful / *stunning* / *gorgeous*.)



- You'll need to use good verbs too. (Doing words.)
- Don't forget good adverbs to say how, when and where things happen. (The boy strolled *slowly* down the empty street.)
- Use good connectives. (therefore, however, consequently)
- Try to get in a few similies. (As strong as a bull.)
- Get some metaphors in too. (He was a raging monster!)
- Try some alliteration. (Daft Danny danced delightfully.)
- You can use some dialect for your characters, but don't use it in the narrative. ("Come 'ere you.) NEVER allow your characters to use swear words.



- Try to get in some *nice* figurative language. (The hot wind blew like dragon's breath!) What does *nice* mean? Not a lot! Try to use other words for *nice*.
- Keep your handwriting tidy. Examiners and teachers hate marking messy, untidy handwriting!
- Try to make your characters interesting.

