



You Write!

Writing Your Story: Activity #2



Choose a Setting

Before they can get started helping you write your story, your characters will need a setting – a place to hang out. They might start out right at home, or in a bustling city, or on a lonely island beach. I know of one author whose characters begin most of their adventures in the top of a tree. The setting is completely up to you, the writer.

A story can take place anywhere. I find it's easier to write a story if I know something about the place where it's going to happen. It can be fun to write a story about a place you've visited. It can be just as much fun to let your characters explore a place you've never been to. This is one way I like to learn about a foreign land or an unusual situation. It also gives me an excuse to do a little research.*

Some settings where your characters might get started:

A tiny cottage that sits all by itself, deep in the forest

A little-known planet in the far reaches of space

A grand palace with hundreds of doors and windows, surrounded by a moat

The African jungle where animals and birds are always on the move
A suburban neighborhood where one of the houses is said to be haunted
A glacier in the frozen Antarctic
On the floor of the Pacific Ocean
Inside the walls of an old house owned by a famous clockmaker

You might try turning your characters loose in one of the settings above, to see if they like it. If not, you might make up a new setting all your own. Once your characters feel comfortable, they'll begin thinking, saying and doing all sorts of things, and your story will be off to a great start!

Write On!

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