



**ECCB PRIMARY SCHOOLS
SHORT STORY CONTEST**



TIPS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED

Writing short story provides students with the opportunity to use literary terms they have seen in the fiction they read as well as use their imagination. Here are some quick writing tips to help you create a short story.

PLAN

Avoid unnecessary distractions. Turn the TV off, iPod and video game off, have a full tummy, and no friends playing outside closeby.

Just take a few moments before you think you are ready to answer the [Five W's](#) below and write your answers down so you can review them. Do they make sense? Will we get interested early in the story? Will you be building up to a big kaboom. Do you know how long the story will be? Make lots of notes. Short stories need lots of content.

The Five Ws are Who, What, When, Where and Why

Who is in the story?

These are the people, the animals, the cartoon characters or the friends - anyone you need to be part of the story. The trick is to write something that the readers will remember about them. If you have lots of people, this will be hard to do. Try with fewer people or characters first... as you see they don't have to be people at all.

What is going to happen?

Any story has things that happen one at a time, leading up to the ending. Sometimes the beginning gets us interested, sometimes it's just there because it has to be, and you want to build up to a big kaboom! Try to feel how and when you will make your readers understand what

you want to say. If it's all in the first sentence, then it really wasn't a story, was it?

When will you be in it?

Your story is your story but it doesn't have to be about you. In fact, it's probably better if it's about someone else, someplace else... and even at some other time. Here you have to choose how you are looking at what happens. Are you there, totally into it? Or are you a bystander, just looking on? Do you feel anything while it's happening? Or maybe you're more like a news broadcaster on TV or radio just reporting what happened.

In any case, it's your choice... it's your story. Just try to think one way and not many. Otherwise the readers will be confused and may not want to read your story.

Where does the story take place?

Try to imagine the colours; the buildings – a bank, a park or a supermarket; the school bus... anything that you can think of about where you want your story to be. There are no rules... just for you. Try to imagine yourself in that place in your mind.

Why are you telling it?

This is the reason or purpose of the story in the first place. Try to think of what that reason is. It will help a great deal as you start writing.

READY - SET - GO... SLOW

Fine. Ready to go. Start writing and don't look back. Keep your ideas in your head and **refer to your notes**.

Don't worry about [correct spelling](#) or [avoiding grammatical errors](#) or even [good punctuation](#) just yet. That would slow you down and make you forget things. Just write it and look for corrections when you are finished.

Also, when you are nearly finished, **read the story out loud** to yourself. If something is written poorly, it will stand out and sound strange to your ear. Mark it in your notes, keep reading, and correct it later.

Finally, have your parents read it out loud too. Let them tell you what they liked or did not like about the story. Let them read these writing tips as well.