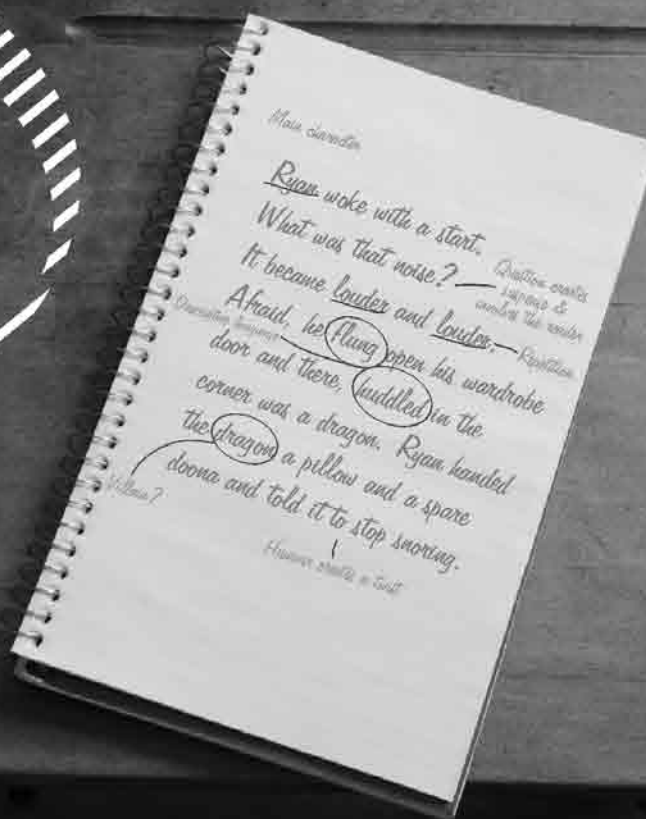


## Text Types Book 1

# Imaginative Narratives

Perfecting the art of writing stories.

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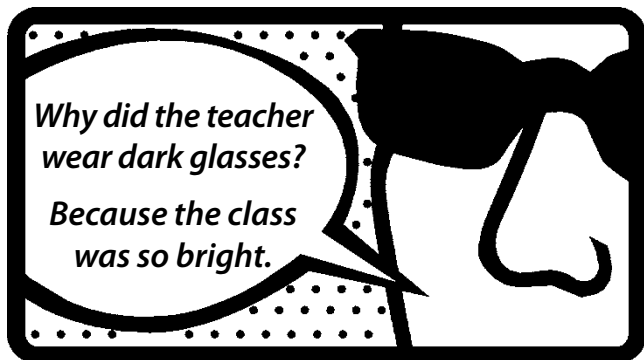


June Keir

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Come on, narrative writing is easy. Make your teacher put on dark glasses.



## What is a narrative?

A narrative is a story.

A narrative is a series of events that gets interrupted in some way.

A narrative entertains.

A narrative has three parts:

- An introduction (*sets the scene.*)
- A complication (*A problem occurs. This is the part that makes your writing entertaining.*)
- A resolution (*solving the problem/complication.*)

*Read this:*

Amos got out of bed. He put on his school clothes. He ate his breakfast. He brushed his teeth. He went to school. He did his lessons. He came home. He did his homework. He watched telly. He went to bed.

☐ Answer these questions by ticking the boxes.

Is it a series of events?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do these events get interrupted in some way?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is it entertaining?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does it have a complication?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does it have a resolution?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the story about Amos a narrative?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Turn Amos' story into a short narrative.

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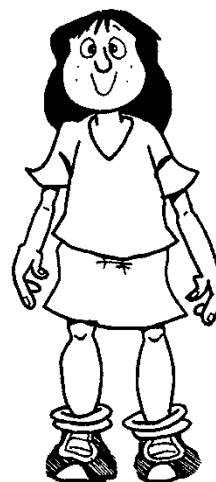


Creating interesting characters is part of writing a great narrative.

- Your audience needs to care about your characters and what happens to them.
- Not all characters are heroes. Not all princesses are beautiful. Not all dragons are evil.
- If your main character has some faults, it's easier to show how he/she changes as a result of his/her attempts to overcome the problems in the text.

By creating a character profile you can make sure that you know your character before you begin writing your narrative. Look at the example below.

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
<b>Name</b>	Jordie
<b>Age</b>	12
<b>Appearance</b>	Gender: Female    Eye colour: Blue Hair colour: Black    Clothes: Daggy
<b>Likes</b>	Loves horses
<b>Dislikes</b>	Bullies
<b>Friends</b>	The helpful witch, the friendly dragon.
<b>Enemies</b>	Harry, the boy next door.
<b>Personality/fears/faults</b>	Shy, unsure of herself. Afraid of storms. Tells lies.



\* Use the profile outline below to create your own hero or heroine.

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Appearance</b>	Gender:                      Eye colour:                      Hair colour: Clothes:
<b>Likes</b>	
<b>Dislikes</b>	
<b>Friends</b>	
<b>Enemies</b>	
<b>Personality/fears/faults</b>	



Writers often describe the setting from the point of view of a character who is in the place being described.

Think about what your character can see, hear, smell, taste or touch. In some situations characters may feel something that's not really there. Try this in spooky stories.

\* Complete the table below. Think about the five senses and imagine a setting at a zoo.

<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Sight</b>	<b>Smell</b>	<b>Taste</b>	<b>Touch</b>
<i>e.g. lions roaring gates clanging</i>	<i>e.g. long necks, long trunks</i>	<i>e.g. animal droppings, disinfectant</i>	<i>e.g. flies on your tongue, icecream</i>	<i>e.g. dust between your toes, hot cage bars</i>

\* Write a short narrative about a boy lost at the zoo. Use as many of the senses as you can to describe the setting – remember, don't just make lists. Make the setting disappear into the action and the dialogue.

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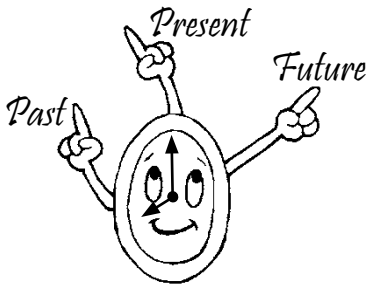
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Writers choose a particular tense in which to write their story. There are three main tenses: past, present and future. It is important to be consistent with tense so that your audience knows when the action is taking place.



**Past tense:**

*Tara ate her lunch. She wasn't very hungry and she hated her cheese sandwiches.*

**Present tense:**

*Tara eats her lunch. She isn't very hungry and she hates her cheese sandwiches.*

**Future tense:**

*Tara will eat her lunch. She won't be very hungry and she will hate her cheese sandwiches.*

This sentence from, The Black Bandit by Jenny Mounfield is written in the past tense.

*"Then, as I opened my mouth to scream another warning, the mannequin hit a pothole. It somersaulted, skidded about five metres, bounced off the side of a bus and rolled into the gutter."*

\* List the words that show that this sentence is written in the past tense.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

This sentence from, Ninjal the Sun by Meme McDonald and Boori Monty Prior is written in the present tense.

*"I'm raising one cheek off the seat, slapping my butt. She's choking, those tears flooding down again. This time it's from too much laughing. I better go easy on this one with the jokes, I'm thinking. She might pass out."*

\* List the words that show this sentence is written in the present tense.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

This sentence is written in the future tense,

*"I don't care what happens, I will never trust her again. She will have to manage without me. From now on I will go riding alone. In six months time, or even in five years time I will be alone when I ride."*

\* List the words that show this sentence is written in the future tense.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_