

TIPS FOR CREATING A COMIC

Before you jump in and start drawing your main character battling with the evil villains of the future, read through the following steps to help make your story stronger and more engaging:

1. DEVELOP AN IDEA OF WHAT YOUR COMIC WILL BE ABOUT. In this case your teacher will provide you with an outline of what your story should be about and will give you some story starters or images to inspire you to get started.

With the background information provided to you by your teacher you will then need to develop some more ideas for your story. Who are the main characters? What will happen in your story (what is your plot)? Have a look on the next page - [GENERAL STORY WRITING TIPS](#) - for things to think about when planning a story.



STEP 2. WRITE A SCRIPT. Although you might want to just start drawing or creating the pictures in your comic, it's important to work out what your characters are going to be doing and saying. Then you'll be able to create images to match.

There are a few main points to keep in mind when writing your script:

- Identify your main character's goals/challenges
- Create a believable setting - even though your story is set in a future of your imagination, it still needs to make sense.
- Include a beginning, middle, and an end. Check the [GENERAL STORY WRITING TIPS](#) on the next page.

STEP 3. PLAN YOUR LAYOUT. You want to keep the reader interested, so try and think about how your story will unfold. A good way of planning your layout is to create some very rough sketches of things you want to include in your comic. Cut these out and play with the order of these images to help you decide which bits you can leave out and which bits need more drawings and detail.

STEP 4. DRAW YOUR COMIC! Don't worry about getting each image completely perfect; the aim of your comic is to tell a good story. Don't forget to add your captions and text to your images!

STEP 5. SHARE YOUR COMIC WITH SOMEONE. Ask someone to read through your comic to check that it makes sense, that the story comes through, and that the drawings and text support your story. Although it can be hard to receive constructive criticism, it can really help to improve your comic.

And by the way, if someone asks you to read their comic or story, you should try to give them criticism that is kind and helpful.

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GENERAL STORY WRITING TIPS

PLOT – The plot is the main storyline of a story. It includes key events.

STRUCTURE – Fiction narratives often follow a structure where the sequence of events can be broken down into three main parts:

1. Orientation - Who, When, Where. Introduce the characters, setting and events.
2. Complication - In the middle of a fictional narrative readers are introduced to conflicts, interactions and events that lead up to the climax. The climax is where the conflicts and events build up to a point of suspense or importance. At this point a key event will take place that relieves the tension, focuses the action or explains everything that has gone on up to this point. Descriptive words are used to give information about characters and events.
3. Resolution - Deals with the consequences that follow the climax.

THEME – The theme is the main issue or idea. It is the principal message the author wants to convey to the reader.

CHARACTERS – Characters may be human, animal or imaginary. Major characters are central to the action while minor characters support the plot and setting but have little role in main events. The personality traits of characters are important to narratives. Multi-dimensional characters reflect the complex personalities of real life. A well-rounded character will be believable and well-developed: a one-dimensional character will be less believable.

Techniques to describe characters may include:

- Descriptions of physical appearance
- Speech characteristics
- Word choice
- Descriptions of how they act and treat other people
- Dialogue to show what other characters say about them.

SETTING – The setting is where and when events take place. The type of setting will influence the readers' perceptions and expectations of events.

LANGUAGE AND STYLE – Consider the following points about language and style:

- How will you use descriptive language and other stylistic devices to create pictures in your audience's imagination?
- How is dialogue use and for what purpose?
- Will you use imaginative or figurative language? How will this affect your story?
- What form or narration will you use: first person or third person?
- What types of sentence construction will you use and what effect will they have?
- How will you use grammar and punctuation in your narrative?

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