



Writing Stories for Malaysian Children

A Workshop Course by Brighton Training Fellow Ruth Wickham at IPGKDRI, Kuala Terengganu.

Participant's Notes for Session 9



Session 9: Wrap up: Create and share a new children's story

Over the last eight sessions, participants have attempted various aspects of creating a story for Malaysian kids to read.

Objectives

Participants will

- Complete a Story Plan Form for a new story
- Write a story
- Illustrate the story
- Create and print a booklet
- Share their story/booklet with other participants and online.

Materials

You should have your own laptop with Internet access (dongle), notebook and writing materials. Coloured pencils or markers are needed for illustrating and adding colour.

You need ready access to a printer.



Using all that you have learned, **create** a new story, with assistance as needed from the facilitator and encouragement from fellow participants.

1. Use the Story Plan Form below) to plan your story.
2. Decide on who your readers are, and write to their level.
3. Create your story as a Word document.
4. Create illustrations for your story. You could
 - look for pictures on the Internet or your computer files
 - take some photos
 - draw some pictures to scan, or cut out and stick in your booklet for now.
 - wait until you print your booklet, and draw directly into it.
5. Save your story as a PDF.
6. Print your booklet
7. Share your story.

Allow time for all participants to share their creations.

Upload PDFs to the [Stories for Malaysian Kids](http://storiesformalaysiankids.com) website.

(at <http://storiesformalaysiankids.weebly.com>)



Planning a Story

1. Title of Story

..... (Maybe decide later)

2. Setting

Where does your story take place?

Geographical location (which country, city, town ...)

Environmental location (mountains, lake, sea, river, plains, cityscape ...)

Climate / weather

Social (family, school, workplace, friends ...)

Other factors

5 senses – sights/sounds/smells/tastes/feelings that should or could be mentioned

3. Characters

Main Character's Name:

Character's Best Friend(s):

Four important character questions:

1. What does your character want?

2. Why does he/she want this?

3. What's standing in his/her way?

4. What are the consequences of your character getting (or not getting) what he/she wants?

Participant's Notes



Useful things to know about your character:

1. What important goal, need, or want does (s)he have at the story's beginning, and why is it so?
.....
2. What is stopping him/her from reaching his/her goal?
.....
3. What does (s)he long for?
4. What does (s)he most regret? What is (s)he most proud of?
5. What is his/her greatest fear? Greatest secret?
6. What is his/her most cherished belief? What is his/her value system?
7. What is the external conflict (s)he must overcome?
8. What is his/her greatest strength? Greatest weakness?
9. What is the worst thing that could happen to your character? Why?.....

4. Catalyst

Catalyst – an event that propels your main character's life from ordinary to extraordinary and shakes up the protagonist's everyday existence.

The Catalyst

- introduces a goal the character will work to achieve
- introduces a problem or conflict the character has to resolve
- introduces an obstacle to your character's goal

What is the catalyst in this story?
.....
.....



5. Story Plot

What steps take the character from the Catalyst to the Resolution?

Catalyst (/Problem)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Resolution (what you and/or the character wants to happen in the end)

.....

For each of these points, think about how they will do each one.

Add Obstacles

Which of these will you use to add excitement:

- Weather.
- Deadline.
- Your character's worst fear.
- Give your character what he wants, and then take it away again.
- Turn a friend into an enemy or just a nuisance.
- Random incidents that are out of character's control.

Point of View

✓ Choose one of three points of view from which to tell your story.

First Person – uses the 'I' voice, from the main character's point of view.

Third Person Limited – uses 'he' or 'she' to follow the character through the story, telling only from their point of view.

Omniscient Point of View – allows the author to be in several places at once and know what everyone is thinking.

Participant's Notes