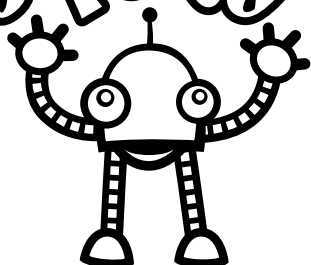


THE STORY LABORATORY



presented by  AbeBooks.com™

Title: _____

This book belongs to: _____

Age: _____

My favorite book: _____

www.abebooks.com/storylaboratory

Introduction

The AbeBooks Story Laboratory is a fun way to help you write a story and make your very first book!

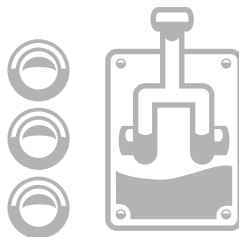
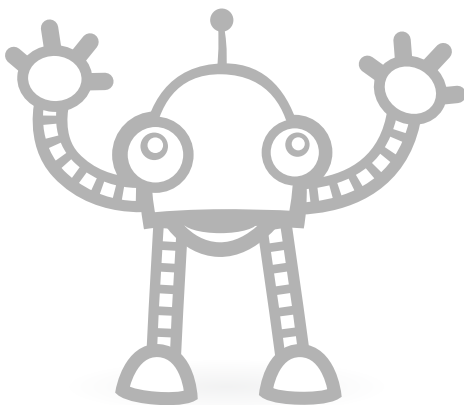
It can be a short story or a long story. It can be a story with words or a story mostly with pictures. It could be a comic book or a novel! It's your story. You make it what you want!

Some important things to remember when writing your story:

Always make sure you use good describing words so that the reader can imagine what your characters are experiencing!

Lots of stories answer these six basic questions: Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?

1. **Who** are you writing about? Who are your characters?
2. **What** do they do?
3. **Where** do they live?
4. **When** does the action happen?
5. **Why** does your story happen to them?
6. **How** do they get out of any any sticky situations they run into?



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Story Starter 1

The dragon looked at the little mouse in wonder. The mouse didn't seem like he was afraid. But how could that be?

Everyone the dragon had ever met was afraid of him! They were afraid that he might breathe fire on them, or maybe hit them with his long, scaly tale.

The dragon had stopped trying to smile at people a long time ago. Everytime he did, his sharp, pointed teeth would make people scream and they would run away very fast.

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Story Starter 2

Princess Lily wasn't very impressed with what she saw. All of her other Princess friends just wanted to practice wearing dresses and fancy shoes for their very first ball, which was still years away.

Princess Lily wanted adventure and fun and magic--all the things her father's friend, the Wizard, had told her about since she was a little girl.

Princess Lily wanted to join the circus.

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More Things to Write About

What's your favourite thing to do?

Where would you live if you could live anywhere in the world?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What's your favourite animal?

What does it look like where this animal lives? Use describing words like colours, smells, what it feels like around the animal, what does he or she see when it gets up in the morning?

What's your favourite holiday?

What's your favourite character in a book or in a movie?

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How to Bind Your Book

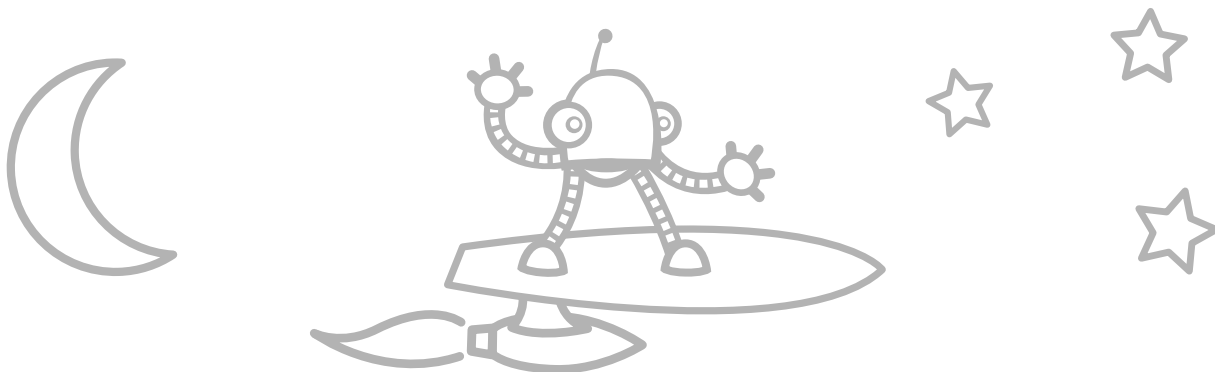
You'll need a hole punch, string or yarn or ribbon or pipe cleaners, and safety scissors.

Once you have your story finished and your cover drawn, you need to bind your book! You may want to ask your parents for help with this, or at least to help you punch holes in the paper.

1. Line up the cover and story edges together so that the pages are all facing the right way and the edges are at a right angle.
2. You can punch as many holes as you want along the margin, but we typically use 3.
3. Here's where you can get creative! Decide what you want to use to bind the book together: string or yarn or ribbon or pipe cleaners, or you may have your own ideas!
4. You can cut the binding material into three pieces and just loop each piece through one of the holes and then tie a bow. Or, you can leave the bindings in long pieces and loop a design through the holes. As long as you tie the binding in some way, your story will stay fastened together, and voila...
5. You have a book!

Congratulations on making your book!

Hey kids! You and your parents can upload pictures of your books to **The Story Laboratory flickr Group**. Just go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/storylaboratory/>. You can upload pictures and photos of your very own books to share with other kids from around the world!



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