

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY



Why not let Jeremy Strong's books inspire you to write your own story!
Here are ten top tips to help you.

1 Find somewhere good to write. It will help you think better if you have a comfy chair and a quiet room. Set aside a bit of time when you won't get any distractions!

2 Think about your characters. Start by working out which characters are going to appear in your story. Decide which other characters you are going to include too. Perhaps you could feature your friends or family!

3 Plan your story. Now think about what your characters will do. Think about the beginning, middle and end before you start writing properly. Sort your story into sections so you know what is going to happen when, and work out how long it is going to be. Don't worry if it's a short story – they are often the best ones!

4 Start and end with a bang! Good stories grab you from the very first sentence. Make sure yours is a cracker so that people want to read on. And try to write an ending that rounds off the story and leaves your readers wanting more!

5 Make it funny. Think of a few hilarious situations your characters could find themselves in, and throw in a few of your best jokes!

6 Add some drawings. Just like in **CARTOON KID**, try sketching a few drawings to help bring your story to life. Break up the sections with some drawings of your characters, and doodle in the margins.

7 Keep a notebook. Jeremy Strong picks up ideas for his stories from the things he sees and hears every day. If you have a little notebook you can scribble down great ideas for your story whenever they occur to you. And if you hear a good joke that would work well in your story, write it down and add it to your story later!

8 Read your story out loud. It will help you work out which bits are funny and which need some more work. Try reading it out to some friends or family too, and ask them what they like and don't like about it.

9 Get rid of the boring bits! You can use people's comments to make your story even better. Jeremy and other top writers often make lots of changes to their stories. Cut out the boring or unfunny parts and then read it through again.

10 Don't forget – you're in charge! Writing a story makes you a special superhero. You can make absolutely anything happen, so let your imagination go wild!