

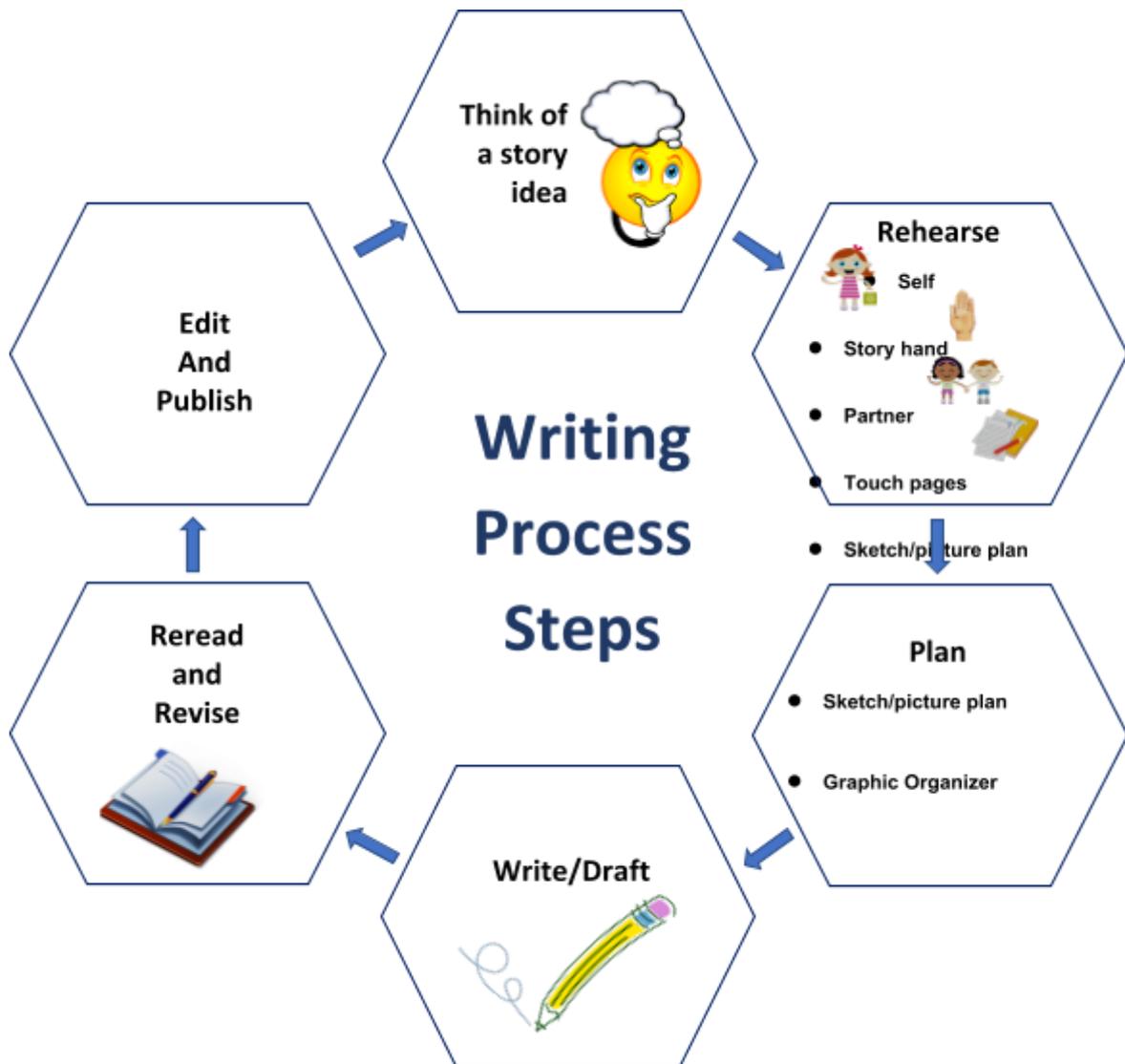
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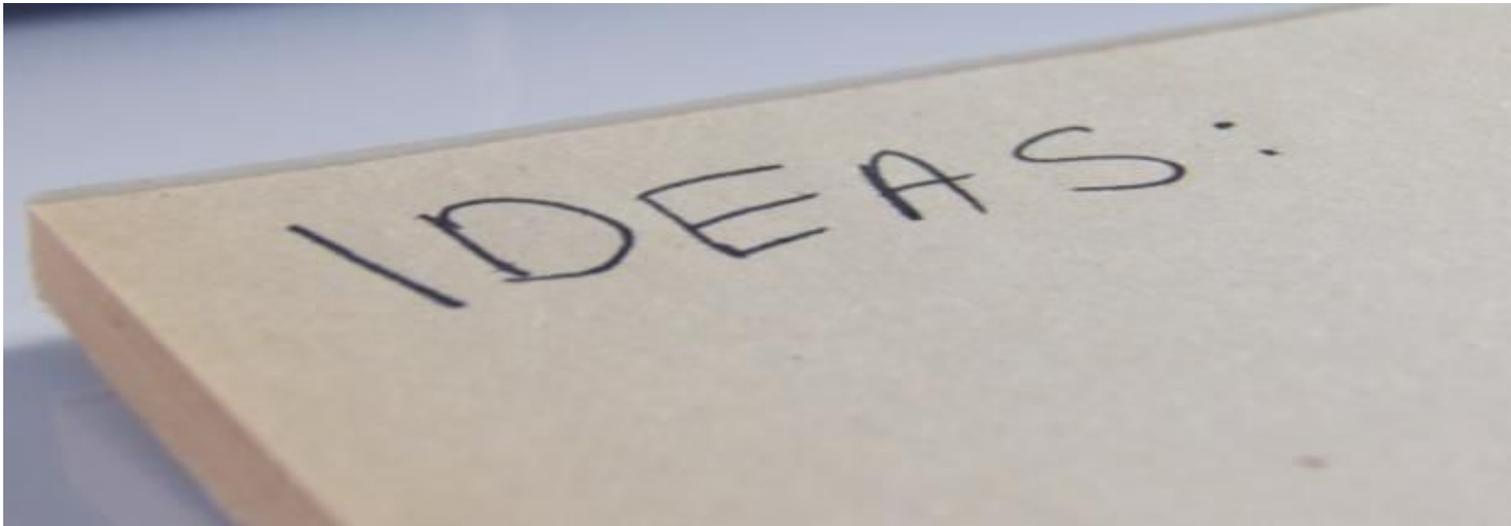
How to Write a Novel in a Month

Right now, sitting there reading this, you are the bravest person I know.
You were willing to take a risk.

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Step 1: Planning Your Book: *The Big Idea*

How do writers come up with their ideas?

Read a lot of books

No matter how old you are, if you want to be a great writer, you must be a great reader, too!

Read as often and as much as you can. If you aren't sure what books to read, don't be afraid to ask your teacher or Mr. Whitman for some suggestions.

- Reading is a great way to get a better idea of what sort of writing you actually enjoy reading. When you read new books and find one you really like, take a moment to think about why you like it. What is so great about the story? Does it have really fantastic characters, or setting? Use the things you like in books you read as examples of how to write those things yourself.
- Just like doctors must learn from other doctors, writers must learn from other writers. You might like a specific kind of book, but try to read lots of different kinds of books to learn things from different kinds of writers.

Use your own life as inspiration

It might not seem like anything exciting or interesting happens in your life, but you can still use it as a place to begin your own stories. It can be as easy as taking something that might seem plain or simple, and changing it into something interesting and new.

- For example, if you wanted to write a story about a superhero, use the backdrop of your everyday life to form your new character. Maybe your superhero is a kid just like you, and one day at school, discovers his powers.
- You can also use settings and locations you are familiar with in real life and write a fictional story set in these places. For example, maybe there's a creepy old house

somewhere in your neighborhood. You could write a story about someone who goes into the creepy old house to investigate, and finds something they didn't expect.

Explore your family history for stories and ideas

Ask your mom, dad, grandma, or grandpa to tell you stories about their lives. Learn new things about what life was like when they were kids, and learn about people in your family you don't know very well, or at all.

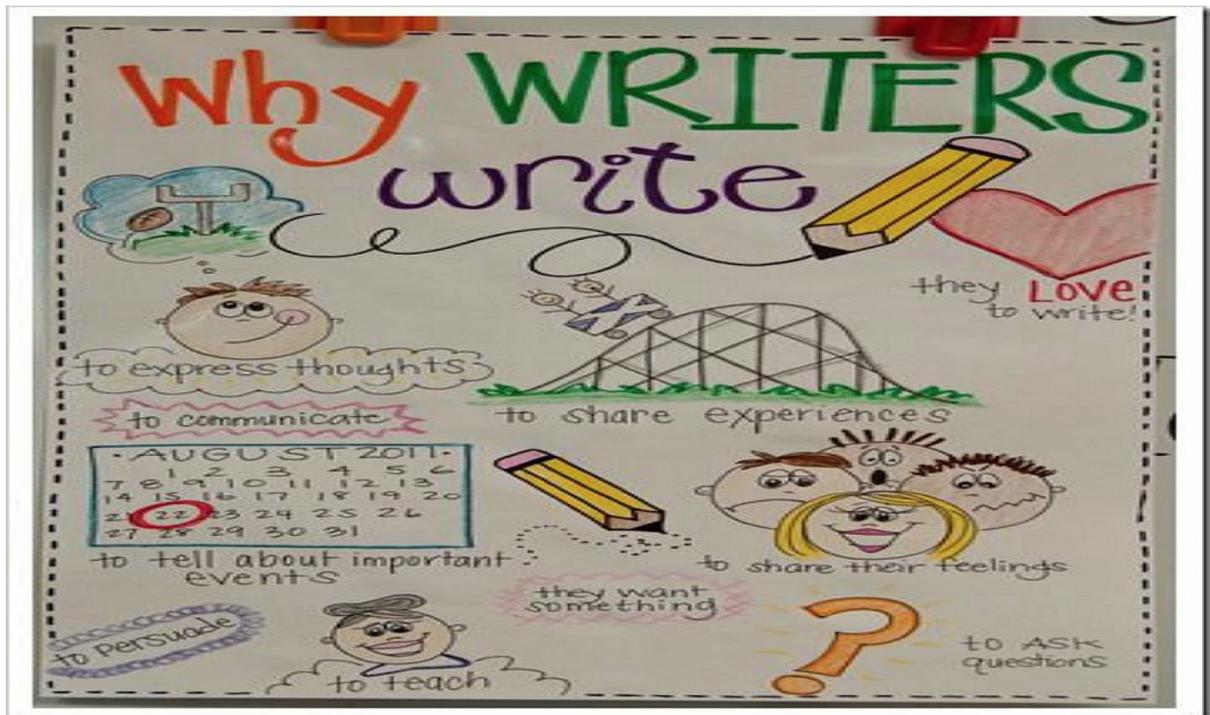
- If you are writing fiction (a story that isn't real or true), you can use stories from your family's history as a starting point, but change names, places, and details to fit your ideas.
- If you are writing nonfiction (a story that is true), make sure your family knows you are writing about them, and that they feel comfortable sharing their stories and histories for you to write about.

Do some research on people, places, and things you're interested in

Maybe you studied something in school that really caught your interest, like a historical event, or an interesting person. Use the things you like and are interested in to find ideas for your stories.

- Your hobbies count here, too. For example, if you really like horseback riding, maybe you could write a story about a character who also rides horses. Or, if you like soccer, maybe your main character could be a famous athlete.
- Think of your interests and hobbies, and then do some research on these things for even more inspiration. Use your school's library, or ask your parents' permission to do an internet search on the subject.

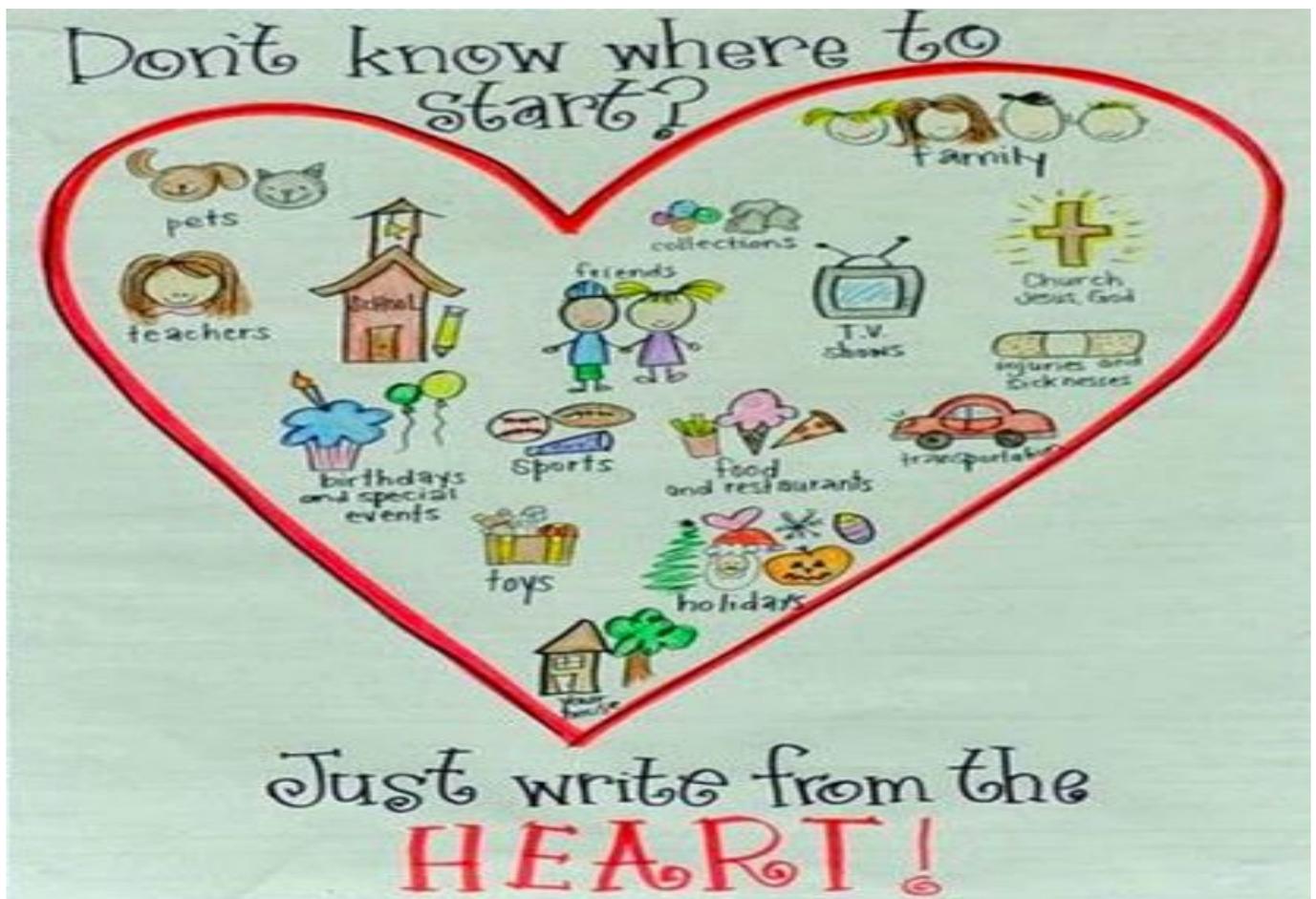
Try and think about why you are writing your book.



Given you have committed to writing a novel in a month I am assuming you love to write. While it might not always seem the coolest idea, using your own experiences can help push your writing along. Think carefully before dismissing the idea of Using your own life for inspiration.

Step 2: Planning Your Book; The Big Plan, Plot or maybe Ideas into Action

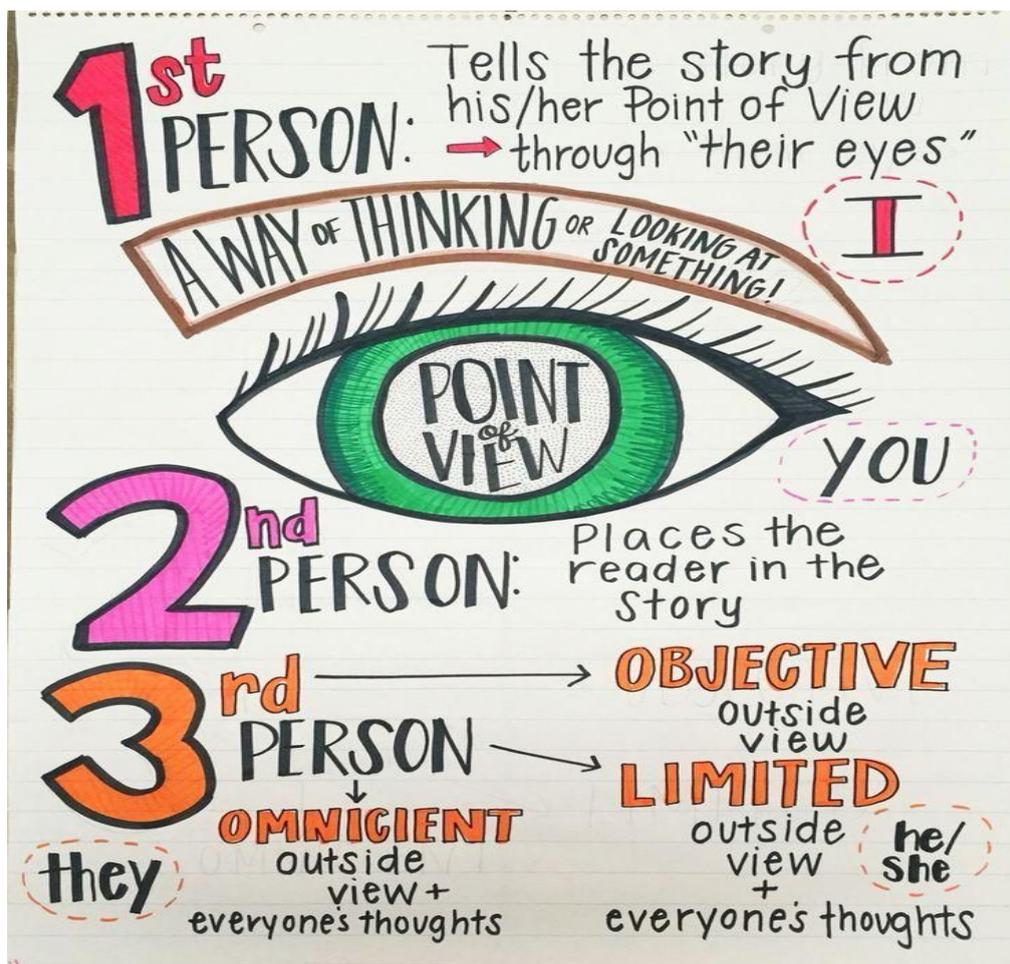
Often you will find you will have an idea before anything else. That's your big idea, Your novel is going to grow from this, The plot will develop. This is your foundation. Build on it slowly, one piece at a time. Step 1 is a big part of your plan. You should have the idea now, let's not waste time...



Step 3: Writing Your Book

So now you are ready to launch into your book (or have tried planning, got bored and just want to get going). As you get going remember this message *Writing is always best when you believe in it. When you are passionate about it. So write from your heart.*

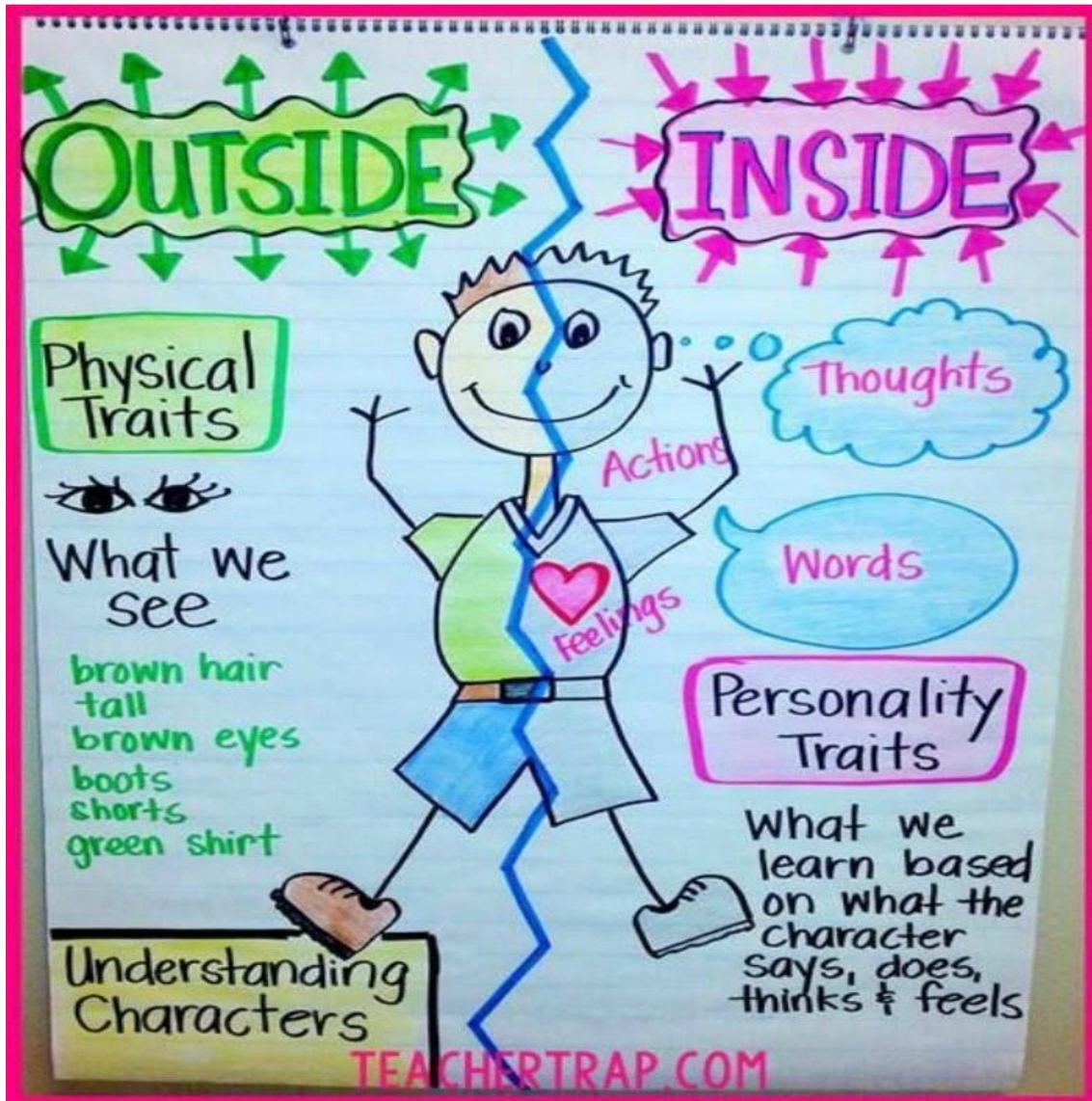
**Decide on your point of view: How will your story be told?
You have option.**



There are pros and cons for all of them but it is often easier to write in the 3rd person. Still that's a choice you have to make. Perhaps you could experiment and see which one works best for you.

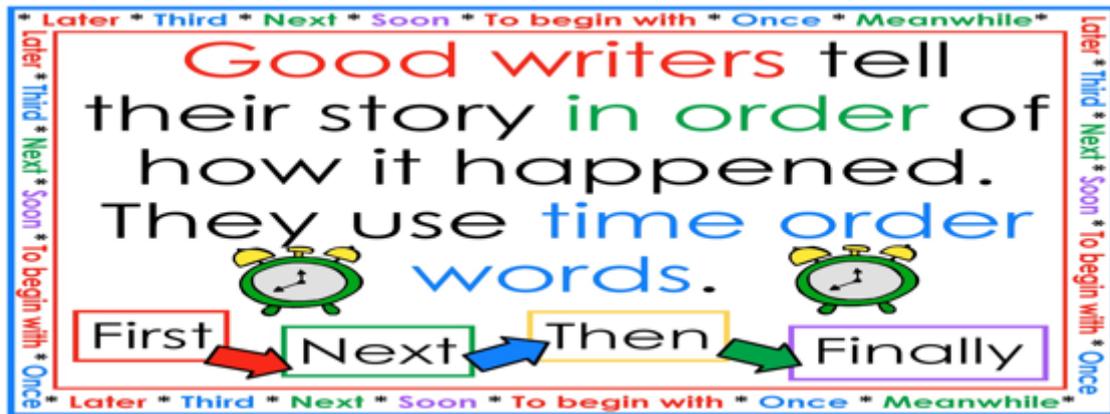
Create your characters

Start with one and build from there. Before you write you should know your character inside and out. Once you know them, you can start to share them with your readers.



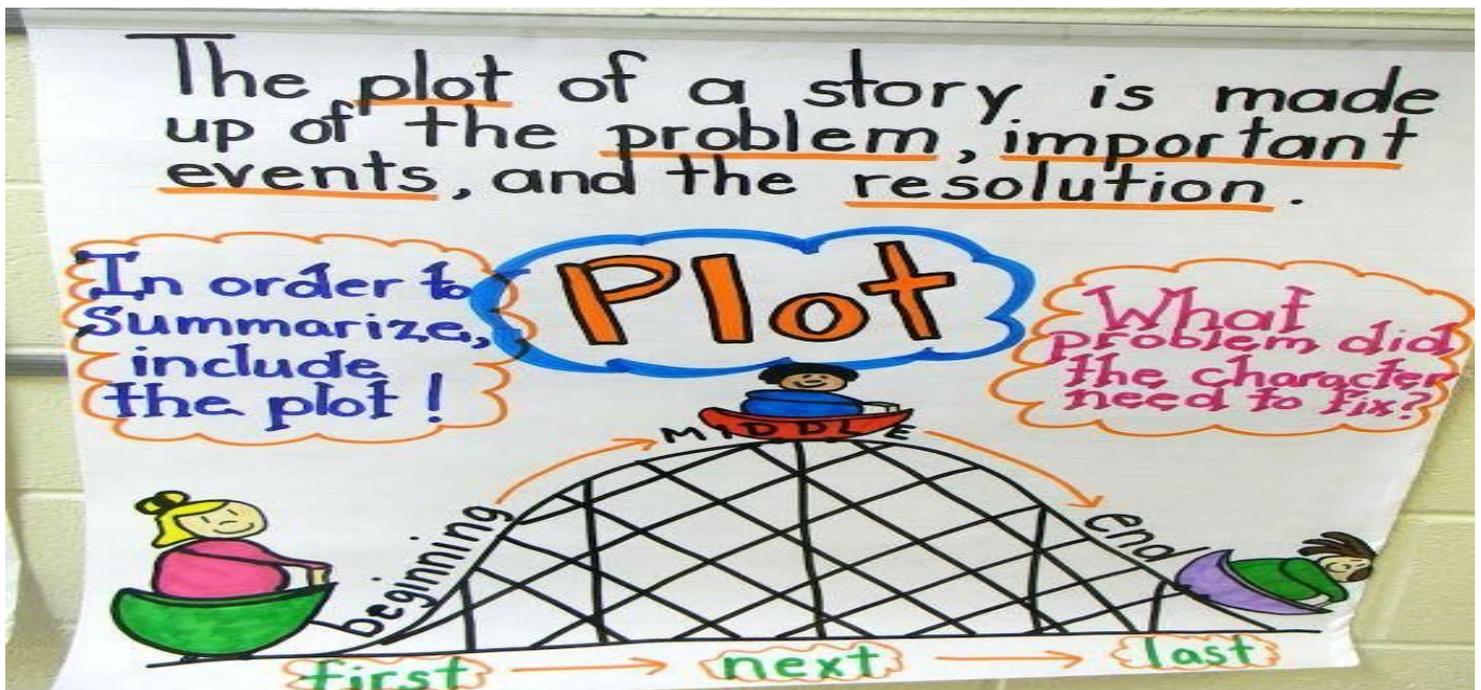
Work on an outline

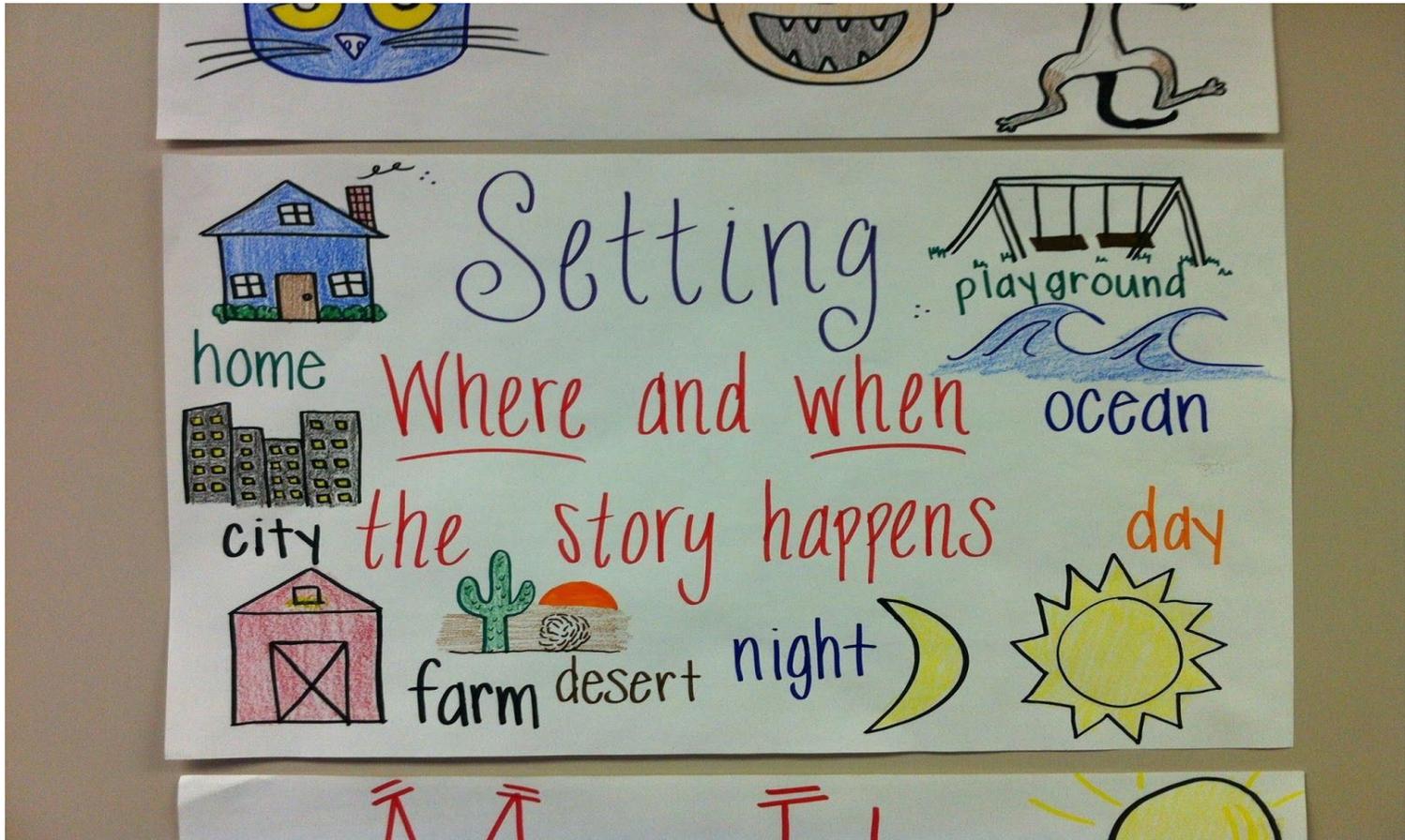
An outline is a tool for organizing your ideas into chronological order.



By making an outline, you will be able to write your book without forgetting any ideas you had for the plot. You will also be able to have a clear idea of what will happen in your book before you write it.

- You can format your outline however you want. Traditionally, you start each section with a shorthand header, and then use bullet points below that header to briefly map out what will happen in that section.
- You can also write separate outlines for different parts of your book. For example, you might have one outline that explains the plot, and have another outline that organizes all the information and ideas you have for your main characters, or even your setting.





Your setting might not be 'fixed' but remember to tell us when you move the action between places. That can be quite exciting as a reader.

Move from your outline to writing your first draft

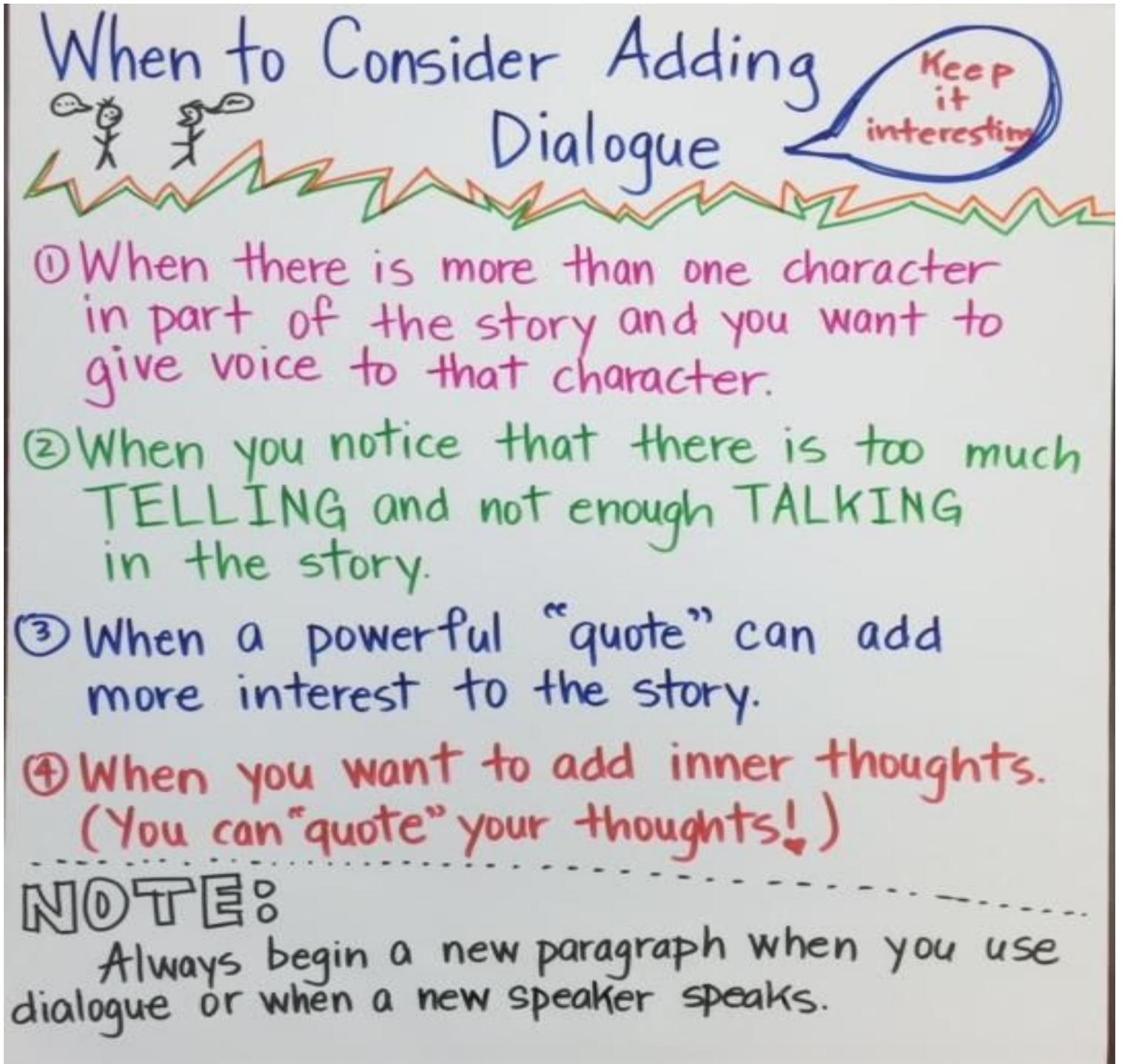
Once you have your outline written, it should be easier to start writing your actual book. This will just involve taking your shorthand ideas on your outline and expanding them into full chapters and scenes.

- You can try using what is called "The Snowflake Method" which means you start with one sentence—maybe the first sentence of your book, or just of a certain chapter—then work to expand that into a full paragraph, and so on, until you have a large chunk of text.
- The great thing about having an outline prepared is that you can make changes to it as you write and not end up confused or disorganized. So, as you expand your outline into your book, keep tracking your changes on that outline to keep yourself organized.

Write interesting scenes and dialogue

A very important part of writing a good book is making sure you have a lot of action and dialogue between your characters. A great place to look for an example of good scenes and dialogue is in your favorite books.

- Try not to be too formal with your dialogue. Think about who your characters are—are they kids like you? Grown-ups? If they're kids, think about how you and your friends talk. Think about how your conversations sound. Try to write dialogue that sounds like a real conversation.



When to Consider Adding Dialogue

Keep it interesting

- ① When there is more than one character in part of the story and you want to give voice to that character.
- ② When you notice that there is too much TELLING and not enough TALKING in the story.
- ③ When a powerful "quote" can add more interest to the story.
- ④ When you want to add inner thoughts. (You can "quote" your thoughts!)

NOTE:
Always begin a new paragraph when you use dialogue or when a new speaker speaks.

How to Write an ISB NWC Novel in a Month

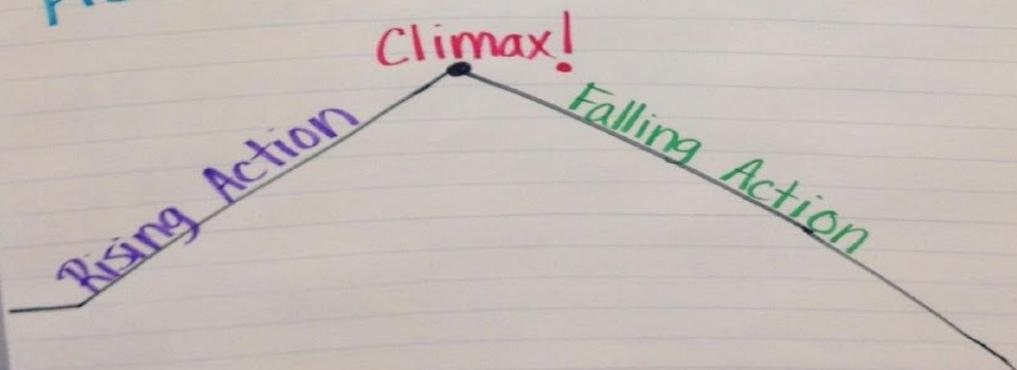
- Use action in your scenes. Give your characters something to do. After your main character tells his mom he's a superhero, does his mom scream? Does she jump around the room in excitement? Let your characters react physically, as well as through words.

Rising Action → Climax → Falling
Action

Rising Action = the main characters
and the problem is introduced

Climax = the problem is solved,
the most exciting point in the story

Falling Action = what happens to
the characters after the
problem is solved



Show, don't tell

When writing your book, you want to try and avoid telling your readers outright every detail of the story. For example, rather than telling the reader that your characters are in a forest, take some time to describe the setting in detail, and let the reader see those characters in a forest.

SHOW, NOT TELL

- Show, Not Tell is a technique to help students write so that they are able **to create a picture or movie in the reader's mind by showing instead of telling about what had happened.** You can do this by the following:

1. Use **ACTION**
2. Use **DIALOGUES**
3. Use **CHARACTER'S THOUGHTS / MONOLOGUE**
4. Use **DESCRIPTIVE / SENSORY details**

Which is great but how does that look?

- Be very descriptive. Rather than writing something that is flat or too simple, try going into detail about the scenes you're writing. Describe the setting. Describe the way your character looks. Describe the weather, or even the tone of someone's voice when they speak.
- When writing descriptions, think about your five senses: taste, sight, smell, sound, and touch. What is your character tasting? What does the setting smell and sound like? What can your character feel or see? Use these senses to write interesting, effective descriptions.

Aminah was very angry.

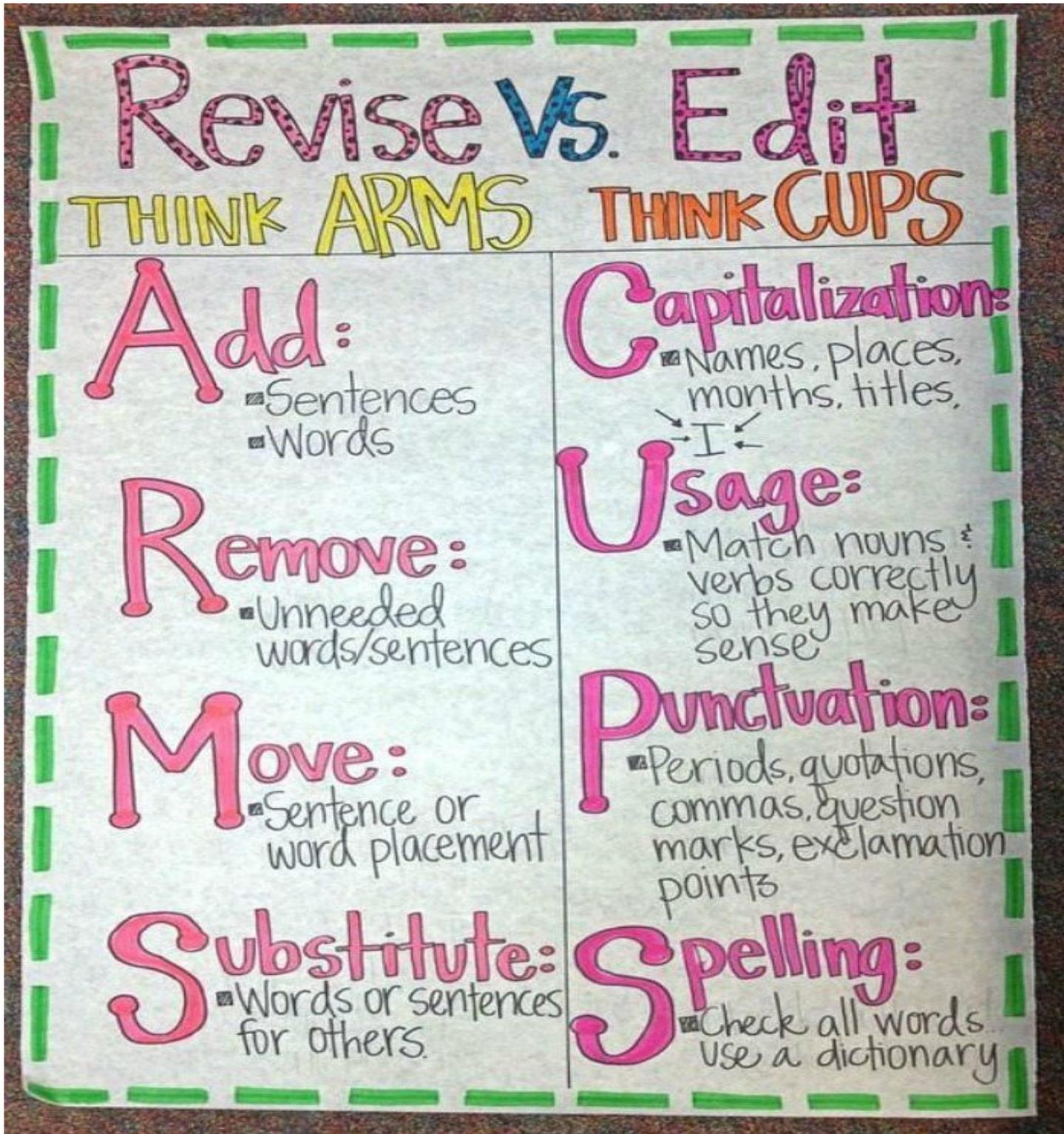
Action	Grabbing a key, she stormed out slamming the door close. She jumped into her car, started the engine, and was set to leave.
Dialogue	"I will never believe you again!" she barked at him at the top of her lungs.
Thoughts / Monologue	I am not going to allow him to treat me like a slave.
Descriptive/ Sensory details	She was shaking like a leaf. Her whole body quivered with an uncontrollable rage. Salty warm tears streamed down her pale soft cheeks only stopping when they reached her swollen dry lips. Her foot stomped onto the small accelerator, tyres squealing as she sped away leaving an odour of burnt rubber lingering in the air.

Ooh, that was good. You should be thinking about how you will write something similar in your novel. There some helpful tips below.

AFRAID hands shaking breathing hard bite nails hind behind object Knees wobble Whimpering	NERVOUS fidget bite bottom lip Stutter butterflies in stomach lump in your throat	EMBARRASSED Covered face Sigh hold back tears run away Stomach flips Crimson cheeks
ANGRY veins popping roll your eyes Stomp foot hands on hips Slam the door hands/jaw clenched	HOT bright crimson face fan self with hand wipe sweat panting / tongue out moving slowly drinking cold water	HAPPY Jump up and down talk rapidly / loud eyes bulging laugh giggle big smile
SHOCKED Jaw drops drop to your knees heart beating fast hands over mouth mouth wide open	TIRED falling over yawn try to keep eyes open lazy feeling red eyes	COLD rub hands together Shivering "brrr" goose bumps See breath red nose
SHY Speak softly Stay by yourself look down hide blush	SAD trembling lips tears in your eyes Shaky voice be by yourself heart aches	EXCITED Smile from ear to ear Jump up and down run around Clap hands mouth wide Jaw drops

Step 3: Editing and Revising Your Book

Read and edit your first draft



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After you've written your whole first draft, you will still have a lot of work to do. Start by reading over the whole thing. Read very carefully, and use a highlighter to make a note of anything you want to fix or change.

- Many writers suggest that printing out your work is the best way to edit. So, if you typed your book or story on a computer, print it out and use the paper copy to make your edits.
- Reading your writing out loud will help you notice mistakes you might not see when you read it silently in your head. This is because you will be forcing yourself to read every sentence very carefully.
- Mark any mistakes in spelling and punctuation, and mark any problems you notice with sentences that might not sound right, or places you want to change or fix.
- Make sure your writing is consistent, meaning it stays the same throughout. For example, if you start writing in past tense ("He was") and then moved to writing in present tense ("He is"), you will want to edit this to stick to one tense throughout.

Polish your final draft

After you've gone through once and marked mistakes, fix and change everything you marked in your first draft. Then, go through a second time. Try to wait a few days between each draft to give yourself a set of new eyes the second time through.

- Try focusing on different parts of your book each time you edit. For example, maybe the first edit you focus on the dialogue, while the second edit focuses more on the description or plot.

Decide if you want illustrations in your book

You can choose to do them yourself, or even ask a friend to help! Some authors have illustrations throughout their book, while others have small drawings at the start of each chapter. You can decide to have some illustrations, or none at all.

- If you ask a friend for help in drawing your illustrations, make sure you give your friend credit on the title page!
- Try using different mediums when making your illustrations, should you choose to have them. For example, try drawing some by hand, and then see if creating them on a computer is better.

Step 4: Publishing Your Book

This is where we take over

However, if you want to do it yourself there are a lot of different ways to publish your book online and then share it with your friends and family. Scribblitt is a tool for kids that allows you to write, illustrate, and design books, as well as have them printed and mailed to you. Some features of this website do cost money, though, so make sure you talk this over with your parents.

- You can also publish your story online and let an online community read and enjoy it. KidPub is a by kids, for kids forum where kids can post their stories and chapter books for each other to read and enjoy.

Have your book printed

Using a service like Scribblitt or LuLu.com, you can have your book professionally bound and printed, for a fee. LuLu will even let you sell copies of your book online. You will need a parent or guardian's permission and help to access and use these services.

- Keep in mind that any online services might require you to be a certain age to use their services. That's why it's important for you to have your parents' help when using these websites and printing your book.

Feel like striking out alone/Taking your Novel even further?

Send your work to a children's magazine

There are magazines that specifically publish work by kids, so try sending your story to one of these magazines! Every big author had to start somewhere, and getting your story published in a magazine is a great place to begin.

- *Stone Soup* is a popular magazine that publishes work by kids, for kids. To get an idea of what kind of stories they like, and for more information on how to submit work to them, pick up a copy from your library, or order a copy from their website. You must be 13 years old or younger to submit work to Stone Soup.
- NewPages.com is a website that helps writers find places to send their work for publication. There is a special part of the website for kids and young writers. Check there for updated and current information on magazines that encourage submissions from young writers.

Think of your story like a mountain

LITERARY STORY MOUNTAIN



1. INTRODUCTION: The beginning introduces characters, setting and hooks the reader into the story. Use words like Once upon a time or It all began on a dreary afternoon

2. PROBLEM & RISING ACTION: The characters have a problem to fix or goal to meet. Things happen along the way and things start to get exciting. Use words like meanwhile, next, as soon as or any other transition word.

3. CLIMAX & HIGH DRAMA: This is the most exciting part of the story! The characters deal with problems and goals in an exciting way. The reader gets hooked and can't stop now! Use words like suddenly, just as, at that exact moment...

4. SOLUTION & FALLING ACTION: The characters have solved a problem or met their goal. Use words like luckily, unfortunately, however, although

5. SOLUTION & WRAP UP: The ending of the story wraps up any loose ends. The characters show what they have learned along the way. Use words like And so, In the end, Finally...