

A Story Recipe (version 1: outline)

This recipe will make one simple short story and is useful when you have to write a story at short notice and within a time limit.

1) In your opening paragraph describe the weather, the place and your main character.

2) Now, start the next paragraph with speech. Your character wants to do something – what is it? Introduce your other character and describe their looks and personality.

TIP: Don't tell your reader everything; show them some of it. E.g. Instead of writing..."he had brown hair"... write... "he pushed his brown hair away from his eyes." This helps the reader to imagine your character.

3) Open this paragraph with another detail of description about the place or a change in the weather. Something is going to go wrong and your character has a problem – describe it.

4) Start this paragraph with an adverb – Suddenly, Cautiously, Hurriedly, Slowly, etc. Shut your eyes and imagine what you might hear, see, smell etc. Make it tense!

5) Solve the problem, refer back to the weather and/or a detail of the description and the place from the beginning of your story. Describe an aspect of your main character that has now changed.