

Story Ideas

Create a Writer's Notebook.

Make sure it is small enough to carry with you. Spiral-bound works best. For the next week make it a presence in your life. Carry it with you where you go!

Write in this notebook 10 minutes each day.

Jot down ideas that could possibly make a good story. When an idea comes to you – from a newspaper story, television, schoolwork, or mall – write it down.

For example, you meet a new kid and it gets your mind thinking: What would it be like to move into a new town? What if this person moved from another country? Another planet?! What conflicts could arise? All these notes are ideas that could later be worked into a story.

You don't need to write in complete sentences. It only needs to make sense to you, something to jog your memory. Jot down your thoughts without worrying if they are "good" or "bad." This is only for you!

Think of 5 favorite stories...

Write down the main story idea for each. (Example, *Heidi*: a young girl is orphaned and is forced to live with her grandfather who doesn't want her there. *The Sound of Music*: a young nun doesn't fit in with convent life and is forced to become a tutor for seven children who've lost their mother.)

Writers are always thinking, always alert, always looking.