

Tips for Writing Excellent Stories

- Avoid telling the reader what to feel, e.g. it was scary. Make them feel it through your descriptions.
- Avoid telling the reader what a character feels, e.g. she was sad. Show how they feel through what they say or do, e.g. her lip trembled.
- Don't use too many characters. Develop a few.
- Keep thinking 'what would this person do/say?'
- Develop the setting.
- To create suspense, lull the reader into a false sense of security – get characters doing something pleasant and introduce an unexpected dilemma.
- Know your ending so you don't include irrelevant details.

