GROW SMART

An initiative by GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES

CREATIVE WRITING WORKBOOK

NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PROVINCE / DISTRICT: _____ SCHOOL: _____

INTRO

Ready to write?

Congratulations, Growsmarter! By entering the Growsmart Writing Competition, you have taken the first step towards becoming a published writer. Write on! The tips in this workbook will help you turn your ideas into a wonderful story. The workbook is divided into three parts. Read the instructions carefully. In Part 1 you will plan your story, write the rough draft and edit it. In Part 2 you will rewrite the final version of your story. Part 3 contains compulsory book reviews. In each section, you will find instructions to guide you through the writing process. Make sure you complete ALL the activities before you submit your creative writing. Now let those thoughts tumble out onto paper!

Growsmart Educational Creative Writing Tutorial Videos

Did you know? Creative writing tutorial videos are available on the Growsmart Youtube channel and the Growsmart webpage! Be sure to visit these pages for educational material and helpful tips!

https://growsmart.org.za

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMw5_wI7FG3xiCtQ5uK5wUA

How to participate:

Follow these steps to participate in the Growsmart Story Writing Competition.

Step 1:
The teacher registers on the Registration and Communication Platform.

Step 2:
The teacher receives the story writing topics via the Registration and Communication Platform.

Step 3:
The teacher talks through the story writing topics with the learners. The teacher hands out an exciting story writing pack to each learner.

Step 4:
Now the learner starts to write!

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's work as your own. This is a very serious offence and you will be disqualified from the competition if the work you submit has been copied from another source, such as the internet, a book or movie. Be original!

Word count

These are the minimum words that you may use in your story. You may use more words if you like.

Grade 4: 300 words
Grade 5: 400 words
Grade 6: 500 words

Writing tips

These writing tips serve as your reference guide. Refer back to these points while writing to remind yourself of what to focus on.

Vocabulary

Think carefully about each word you use – does it add or detract from the image you want to create in the reader's mind?
Use a thesaurus to find words that complement your story.
Avoid using words you don't understand.

Try and use specific nouns and verbs that describe characters, places and situations, instead of peppering your narrative with adjectives and adverbs.
For example, Lisa entered the room *angrily* (adverb) or Lisa *stormed* (specific verb) into the room.
No swearing or rude words are allowed.

Spelling & grammar

Check your grammar.
Use commas and full stops.
Use a dictionary to check your spelling. Beware of American vs British spelling. We follow the latter.
Examples: neighbor (American) vs neighbour (British)

Decide whether you want to write your story in first person (told from one character's point of view using 'I' or 'we') or third person (told from an objective observer's point of view using pronouns like he, she, they, it) and stick to this throughout the story.

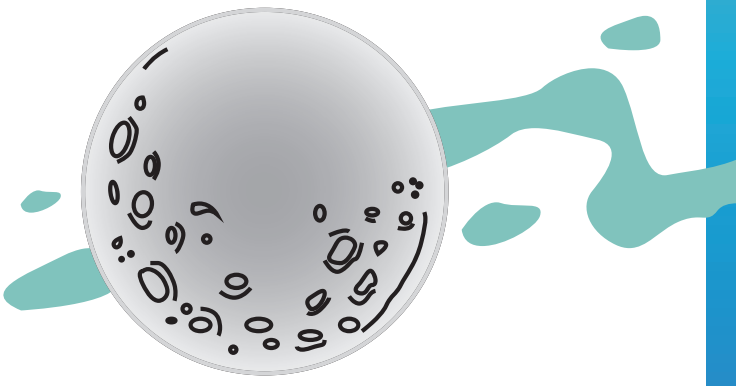
Descriptive vs. narrative text

When writing a descriptive essay:
Use the five senses to create a picture in words.
Use descriptive words, adjectives and adverbs.
Use figures of speech.

When writing a narrative essay:
Use a convincing storyline that ends strongly.
Write in the past tense.
Capture the reader's attention with the introduction.

Setting

Decide whether your story is set in the past, present, future or over multiple timelines.
Use the location, time of day and weather conditions to create a mood.



Structure

Give your story a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
In the body, present a problem that reaches a climax.
Offer a resolution in the conclusion.
Link your paragraphs to give the story an easy flow.
For example, if you end the paragraph with Lebo riding a horse, in the next paragraph start with 'Lebo reached the mountains and jumped off his horse…'
At the end of the story, make sure your main character realises something important. See Page 8 for more information on character development.

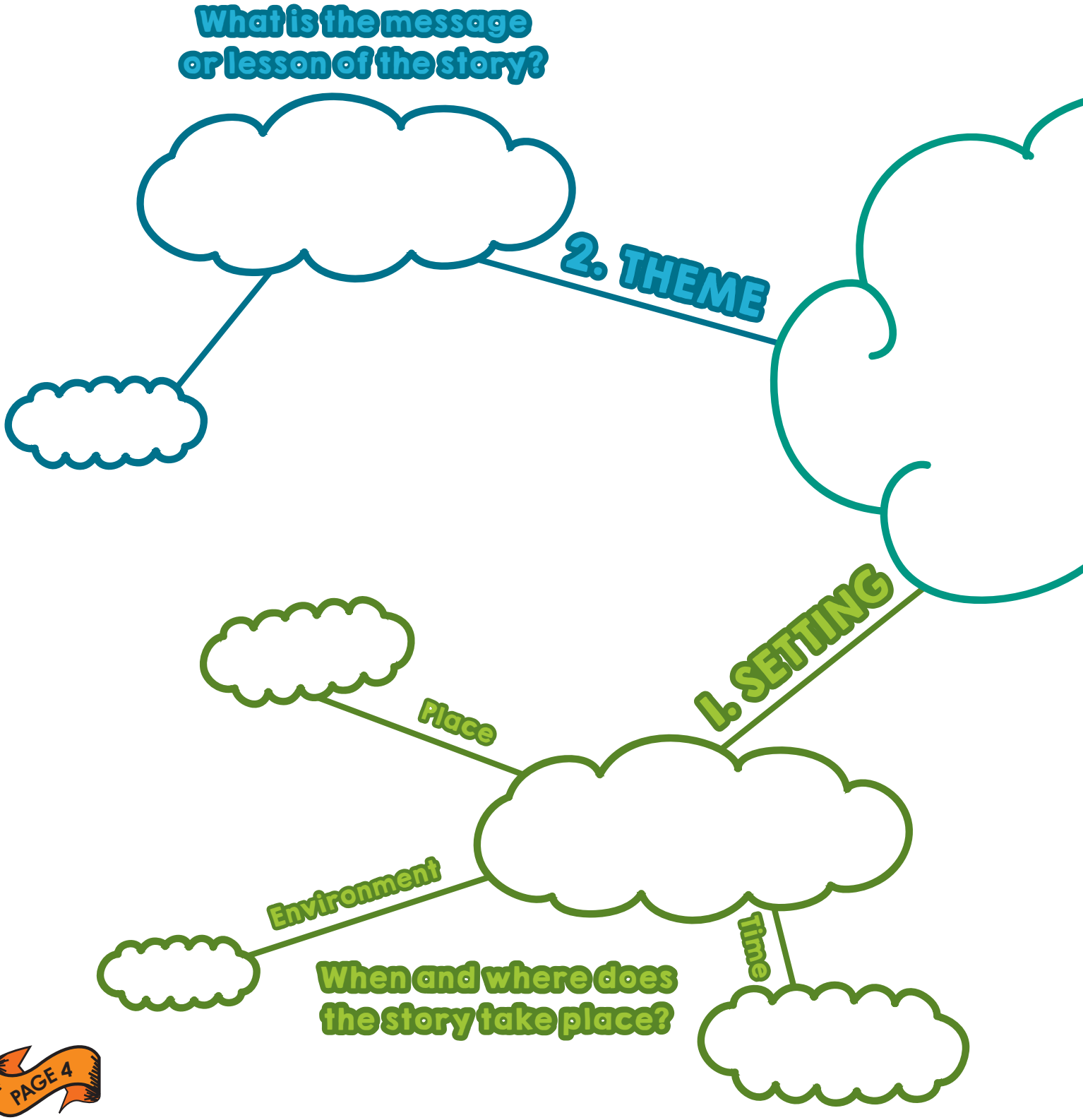
What is a story?

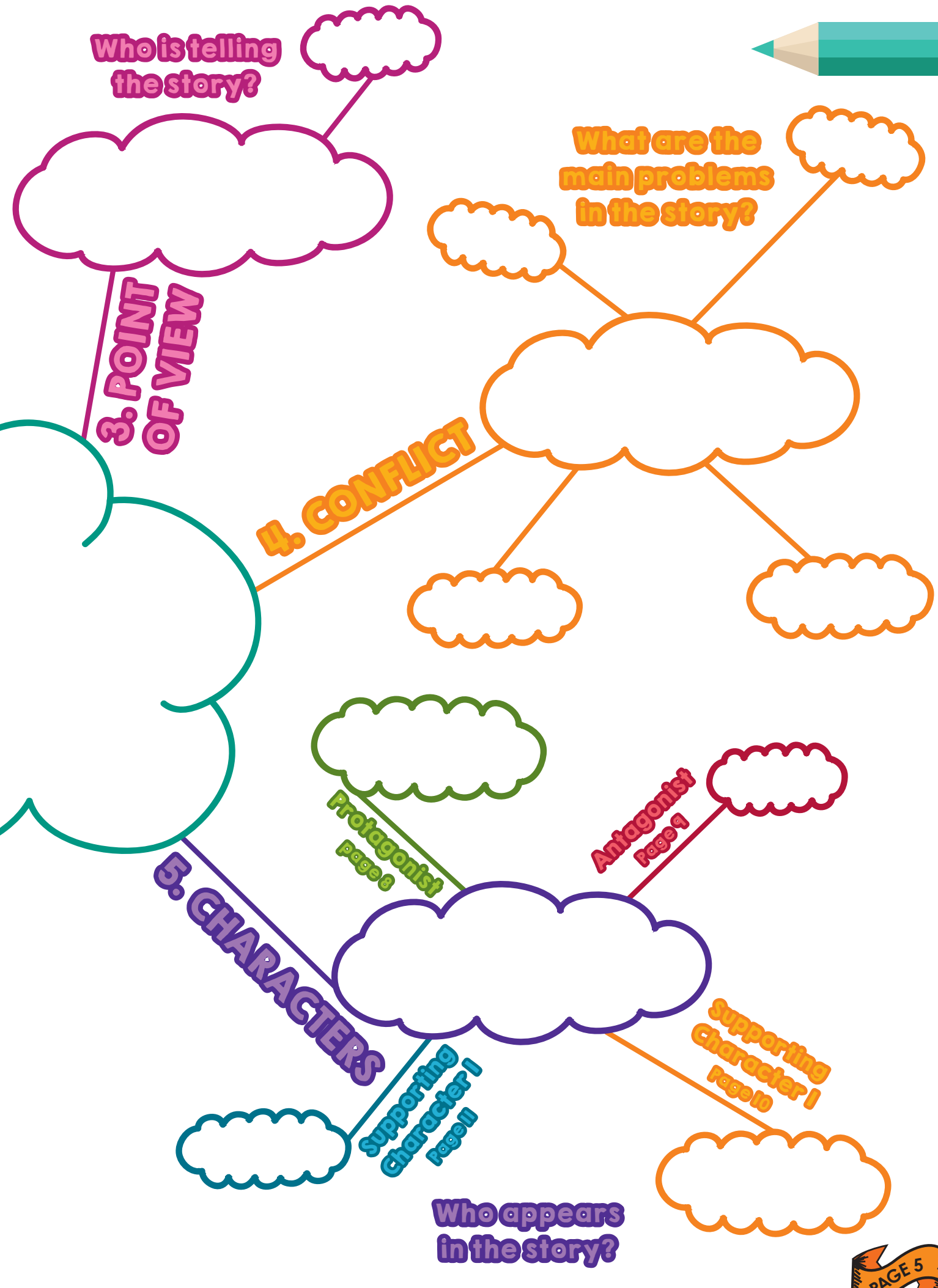
A story is a narrative that aims to entertain or teach readers something new, sometimes both. While a non-fictional story is based on facts, writers create fictional stories using their imagination.

Plan

Plan the main elements that will make up your story.

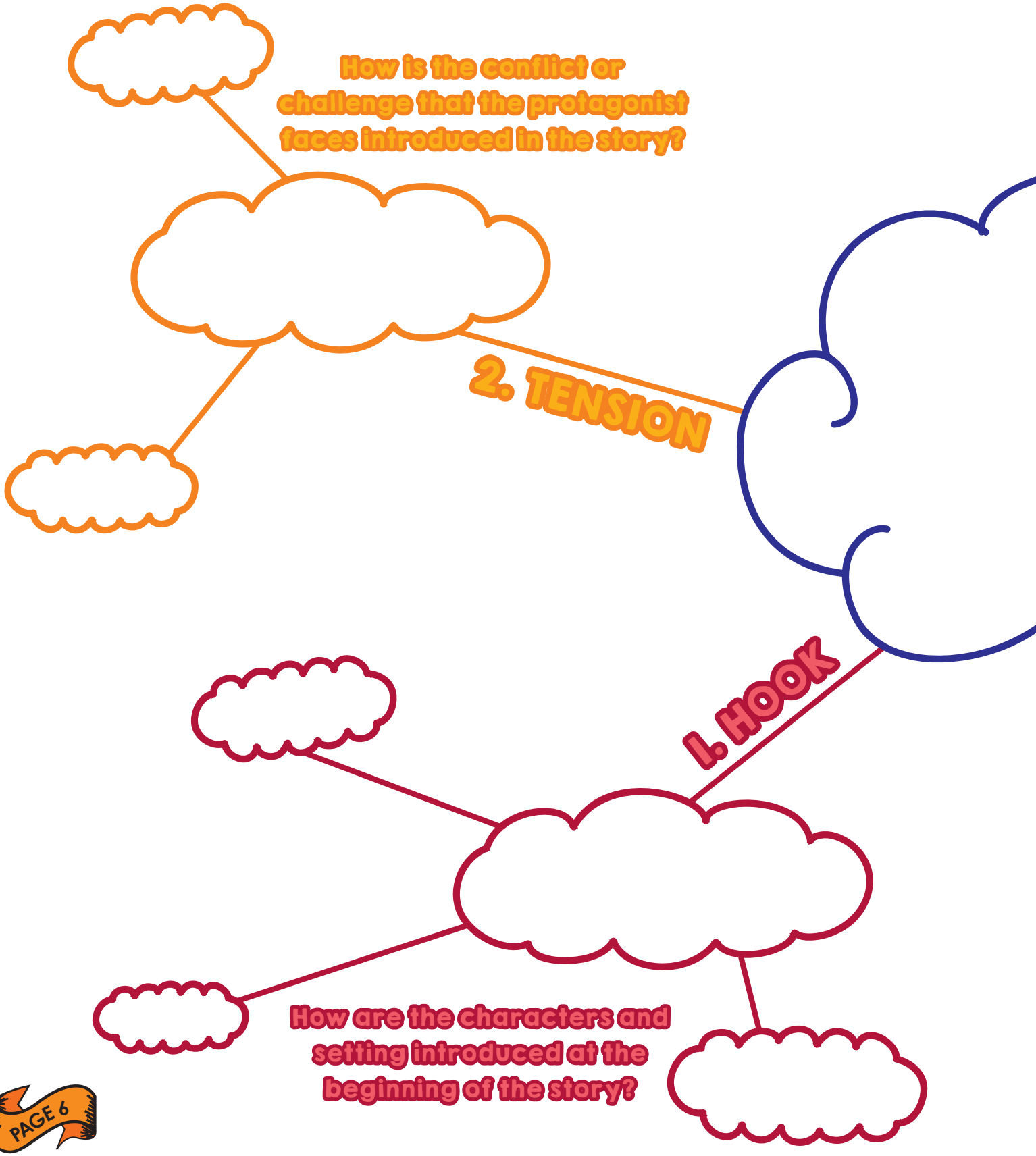
Before you write your first paragraph, create mind maps that outline the main elements and events that will appear in the story. By following this method, you will get a rough idea of the overall picture you want to paint. Use the clouds to write down your ideas. You can add even more clouds if you have more ideas you wish to explore.




Who is telling the story?
3. POINT OF VIEW
What are the main problems in the story?
4. CONFLICT
5. CHARACTERS
Protagonist page 8
Antagonist Page 9
Supporting character I page 10
Supporting character II page 11
Who appears in the story?

Plot structure

Plan what will happen in your story.



Which events take place to help the reader understand the situation in the story?

3. RISING ACTION

What is the main event or most exciting part of the story?

4. CLIMAX

What happens after the main event?

5. FALLING ACTION

6. ENDING

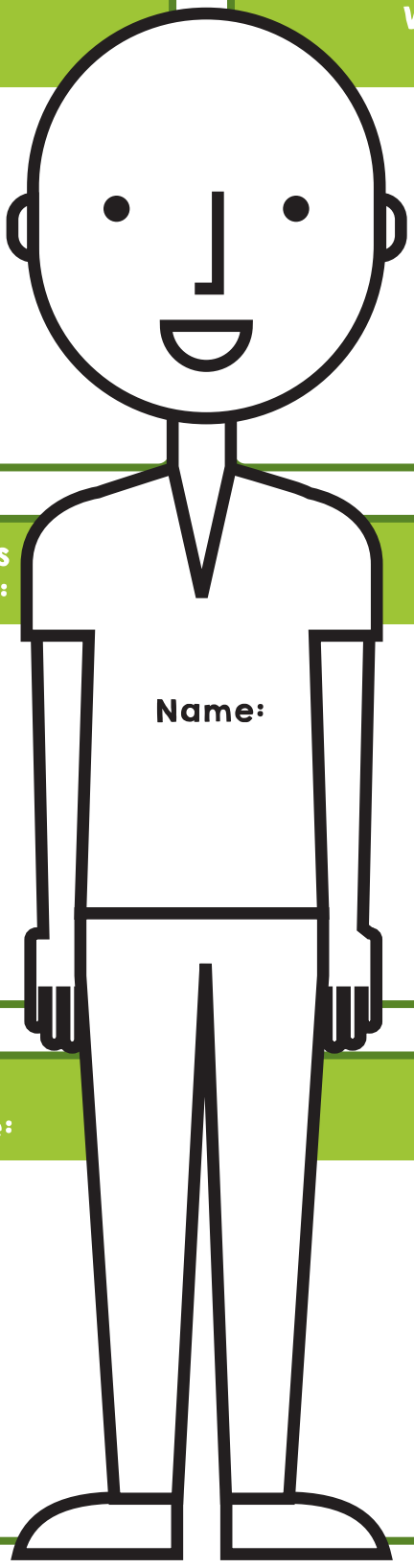
How is the main problem resolved?

Character

Great stories start with great characters. Create characters that your readers will remember, with features that make them stand out.

What does your character look like:

What does your character like and dislike:



What are your character's strengths and weaknesses:

What features make your character stand out:

What challenge does your character overcome:

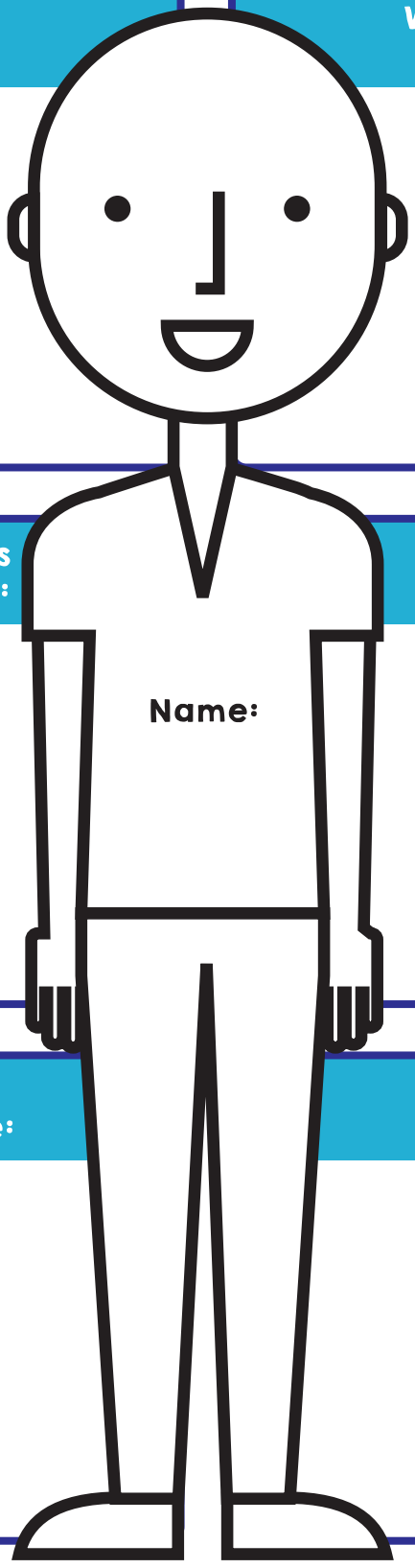
What lesson does your character learn:

Protagonist

development

What does your character look like:

What does your character like and dislike:



Name:

What are your character's strengths and weaknesses:

What features make your character stand out:

What challenge does your character overcome:

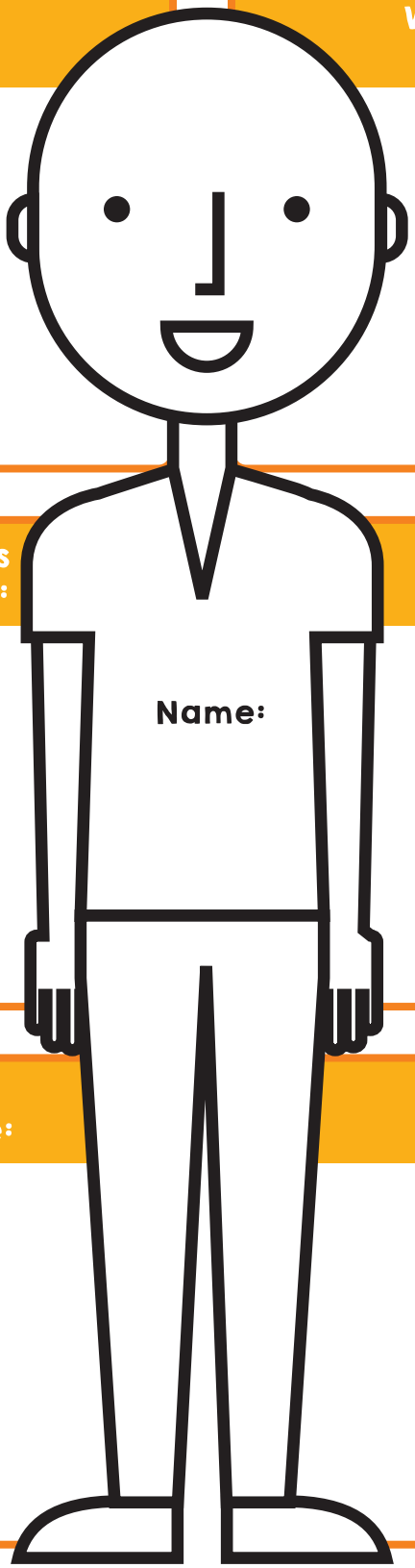
What lesson does your character learn:

Antagonist

Supporting

What does your character look like:

What does your character like and dislike:



Name:

What are your character's strengths and weaknesses:

What features make your character stand out:

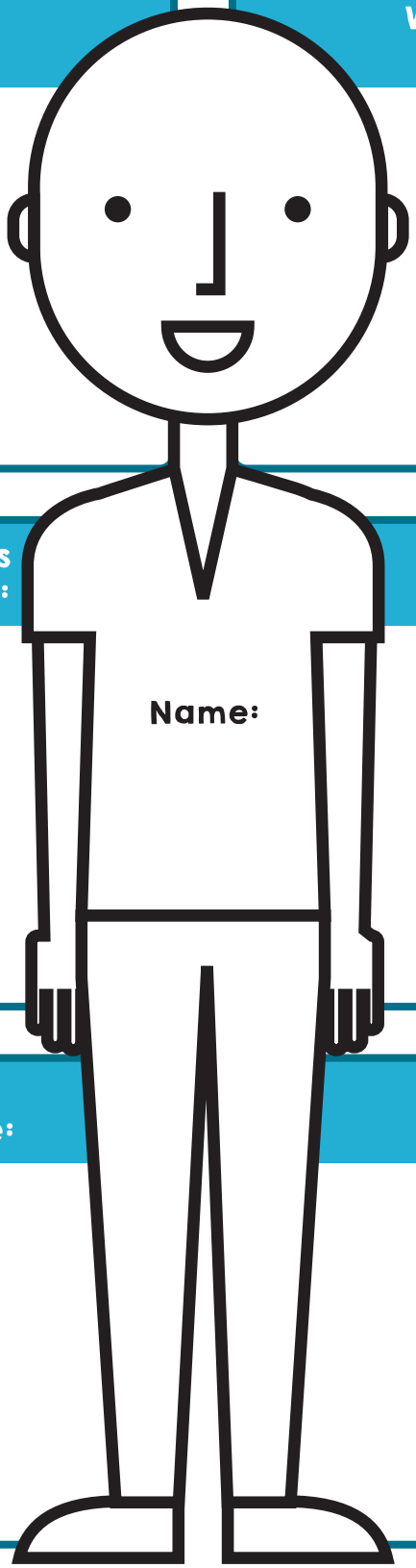
What challenge does your character overcome:

What lesson does your character learn:

characters

What does your character look like:

What does your character like and dislike:



Name:

What are your character's strengths and weaknesses:

What features make your character stand out:

What challenge does your character overcome:

What lesson does your character learn:

Draft cover

Your story can create a strong first impression with an awesome front cover! Practise your cover illustrations here. You can use any medium.

Draft story

No need to fear the blank page! Start writing your draft story here. This is a rough version of your story. Once you have written the draft story, use these rough pages to revise and edit your writing.

Write a blurb for the back cover of your story. A blurb is a short introduction or summary of your story, in order to promote it.

Blurb:

Revise & Edit

Now that the first draft of your story is complete, it is time to revise your story. When you revise, you want to refine your writing. You want to make sure you are clearly communicating ideas to your reader.

✓	• Paragraphs are linked by good connectors.
✓	• Paragraphs have excellent internal cohesion.
✓	• The use of vocabulary is creative, expressive and diverse.
✓	• Show the use of figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, alliteration and personification. Using figurative language can make your story more colourful.

Next you will edit your story. When you edit, you want to clean up your writing. You want to read it through carefully. Your goal is to find and fix any mistakes before you write the final version.

C	Capitalisation	• The first letter of every sentence is capitalised. • Proper nouns are capitalised. • Dates are capitalised. • Titles are capitalised.
U	Usage	• Make sure you have checked your grammar. • Subject and verb agreement is correct. • Plurals are used correctly. • All adjectives describe nouns. All adverbs describe verbs.
P	Punctuation	• The end punctuation is correct (periods, question marks, exclamation points). • Quotation marks are used properly for all thoughts and dialogue. • Commas are used appropriately.
S	Spelling	• Check through all the words closely. • Try your best to find any errors. • Use a dictionary to check words you are uncertain about and see if they are spelled correctly.

Use the draft story pages to make these changes on.

Final story

PART 2:

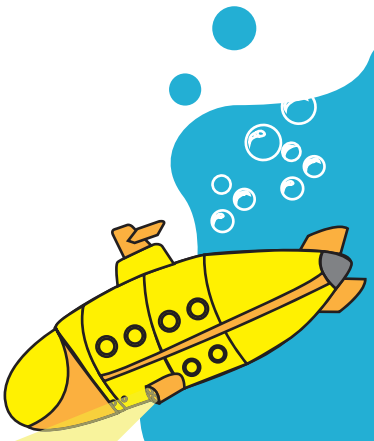
You will now proceed to write your final story. Follow these steps:

Page 22:

Create a title page for your final story.
Include the name of the story.
Include your own name, as the author of the story.
Include the word count of your final story.

Page 23:

Create the final cover illustration for your story.
You may use any medium.
Include the name of the story.
Include your own name, as the author of the story.



Page 24 - 29:

Write the complete and final version of the story.
Use the lined pages to write on.
Use the blank pages to illustrate your final story.
Remember to use the correct word count:

- Grade 4: 300 words
- Grade 5: 400 words
- Grade 6: 500 words

TIPS!

For mentors

- Plan with the learners.
- Explain and demonstrate what a mind map is.
- Make use of the writing process as it is explained in the Grades 4 – 6 CAPS document.
- Indicate in the draft how and where the story can be improved upon.
- Motivate learners to include creative illustrations.
- Motivate learners to use lots of descriptions to make the story interesting and fun to read.

For budding Growsmart authors

- Copy your draft story, with all the changes that you have made, as neatly as you can, to the final pages.
- The final story should not include any changes - make sure you are happy with your last version of the draft before you rewrite the story to the final pages.
- When you write your final story, look at your draft story after each sentence. Make sure that you are rewriting it correctly.
- Write slowly and carefully.
- Use creative illustrations that tell more about the story.
- Be inspired! Use your imagination and think about the kind of story you would like to hear or tell your friends about!

Final cover

PART 3:

Reading

A new world awaits you

You get up early each morning and go to school. You focus in the classroom and concentrate on what you are learning. You come home and complete all your homework.

Finally, after all your hard work, it is time to relax! How should you spend the little free time that you have? Read for pleasure!

What? Did you not just spend your entire day with your nose in your books and your shoulder to the grindstone? Now you are expected to read even more? A hard day's work is exactly why you should kick back with a book:

You can escape from your daily routine or problems, into any world or fantasy the author can imagine!

You can pick any book you like, on any topic or genre that interests you. If you think reading is boring, you haven't found the right book for you yet.

Reading about current information also counts. This includes magazines and newspapers! Why not read about your favourite sports team or music artist?

Books can make boring times more fun. You can read on your way to school, or when you need to wait somewhere.

You can read wherever you are. This includes posters, menus, product packaging, recipes... reading is everywhere.

Try this!

Still not convinced? Here are some ideas to take reading to the next level of fun:

Start a dare or a challenge. You can read a book, or a certain amount of pages or articles, and then challenge your friends to match you!

Read the book version of a movie you enjoyed.

Start a book club with friends. You can take turns reading a book, and then talk about what you thought about it afterwards.

Build a reading fort. A blanket over two chairs, a large box, a sheet over a table... Adults are less likely to bother you if they know you are reading, and you can escape into your own world.

Your own treasure trove

Did you know? South Africa has 5 423 functional school libraries. Perhaps your school has a school library, and perhaps you have visited it.

But did you also know that South Africa has 1 879 public libraries? Perhaps your school does not have a school library. Or perhaps the materials there do not interest you.

Your local public library might have untapped treasures, just waiting for you to find them! Ask your parents to take you to your local public library, and see what you find!

A library card is free, and allows you access to books, magazines, newspapers and other material that you might not be able to afford otherwise.

You can choose books that you like, and take them back and try new ones if you do not like them, without having to pay. You can also sit down and read special interest magazines about specific topics.

You can talk to a librarian about what you like, and the librarian can make recommendations based on your interests. They can help you to discover books that would make reading fun for you, and they will know about books that you haven't heard of.

A librarian can also help you with research for a task or hobby. They are trained to help you find information.

Some libraries offer other features as well, such as access to computers, music and DVDs. Some libraries even host events or training that you might be interested in!

The library is the perfect place to study for an exam or do your homework. It is quiet, has assigned workspaces and contains resources that can help you study or complete tasks.

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one."

Neil Gaiman, Author

Book log

Read any three books:		
	Title	**Author**
1.		
2.		
3.		
If you had a book voucher to buy any book in the world, which one would you buy?		

Story topics

Stories are categorised by different topics, called **genres**. There are many different genres, and books can fall into more than one genre.

Discovering genres can make it easier to search for new books that you like. If you know which genre your favourite book falls under, you can ask a librarian to recommend other books in the same genre. Reading books from different genres will also help you to find the range of books that you enjoy most.

This is a list of popular genres. Which genre do you want to try next?

Fiction

Realistic fiction
Stories that are made up, but could easily happen in real life. It often takes place in familiar settings like school, so that it feels more relatable.

Science fiction
Stories that are generally set in the future and tie in with science and technology.

Fantasy
Stories that cannot happen in real life, often involving magical or supernatural elements, such as mystical animals.

Mystery
Stories that involve a secret or crime that needs to be solved, usually by the end of the story. You need to pay close attention to solve the mystery, so these books also boost your comprehension skills.

Historical fiction
Stories that did not really happen, but are based on events in history. They are perfect if you love to explore the past, and are often full of adventure.

Thriller
Stories that create a heightened atmosphere of suspense, anticipation and anxiety. They often use literary devices like surprising plot twists and cliffhangers.

Action and adventure
Stories that show a series of events that happen outside the course of the protagonist's ordinary life. The plot is high paced and features danger and physical action.

Non-fiction

Biography
Stories that give an account of someone's life, written by another person. These books can be very inspiring! You can read about someone you admire.

Autobiography
Stories that also give an account of someone's life, but written by that person themself.

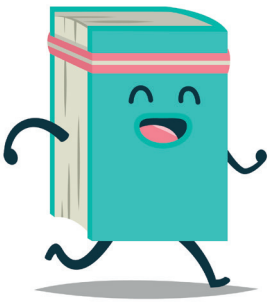
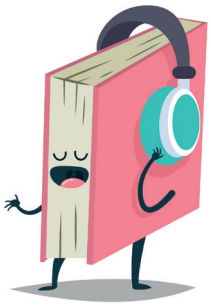
Informational
Books that provide factual information about particular topics such as sports, animals, or historical events.

You can find even more genres online or in the library!

www.scholastic.com

Book review 1

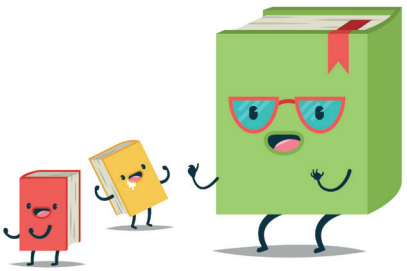
Review the three books you've read.

Title:		Author:	
Did you enjoy the book? Circle the icon you agree with.			
Who was your favourite character? What advice would you give this character?			
What is your favourite part of the story?			
How did the book make you feel?			

Book review 2

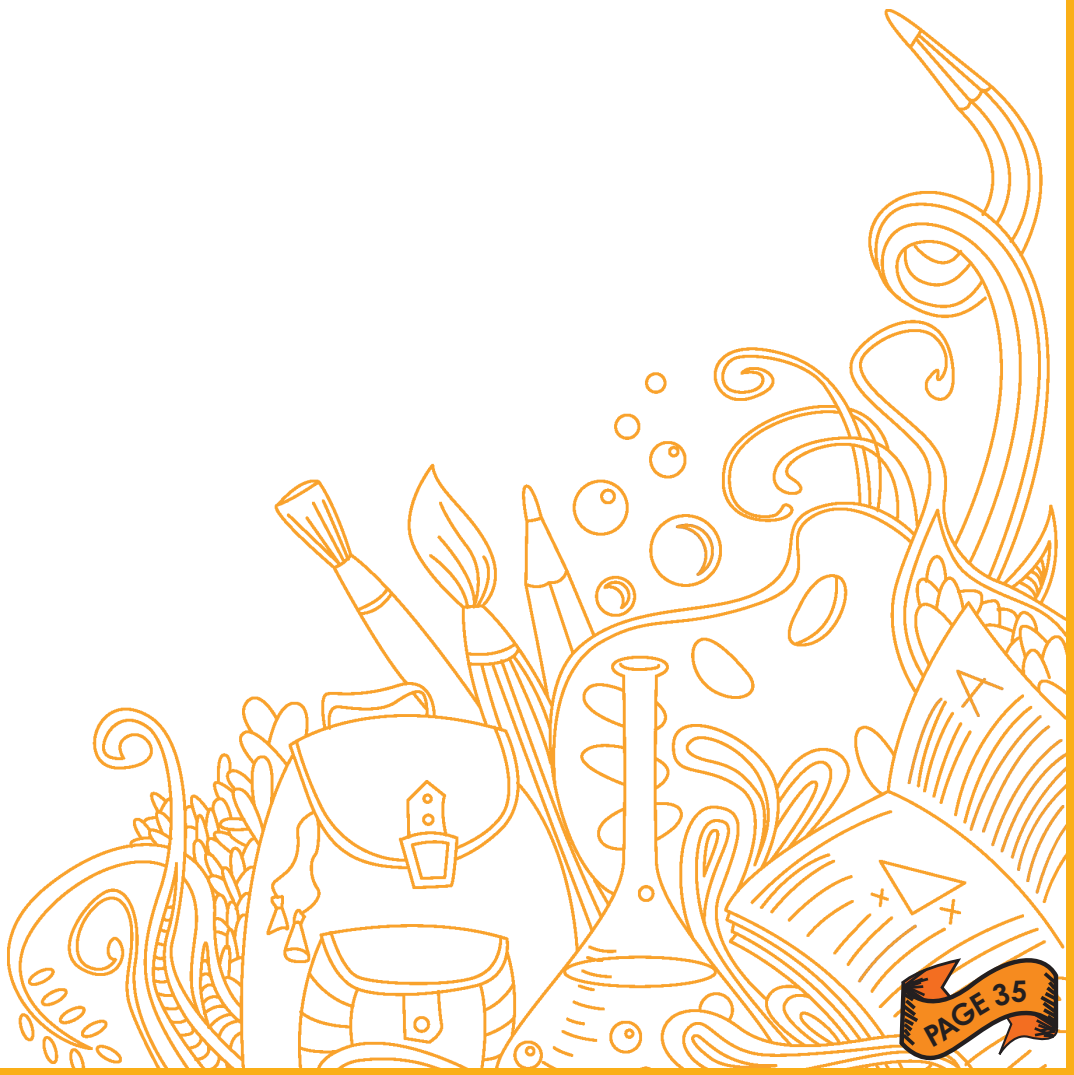
Title:		Author:	
Did you enjoy the book? Circle the icon you agree with.			
Who was your favourite character? What advice would you give this character?			
What is your favourite part of the story?			
How did the book make you feel?			

Book review 3

Title:		Author:	
Did you enjoy the book? Circle the icon you agree with.			
Who was your favourite character? What advice would you give this character?			
What is your favourite part of the story?			
How did the book make you feel?			

Notes

Keep track of your genius ideas, write down important tips or reminders, or simply doodle to get those creative juices flowing!



Crossword

Complete the puzzle. Find the missing words. Choose five words and write a cohesive sentence of each.

S	S	Z	E	N	D	I	N	G	X	Q	V	X	C	Z	V	D	Z
H	U	T	P	U	V	H	H	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	I	N	G
O	I	C	O	N	F	L	I	C	T	E	Z	A	E	T	S	D	N
O	N	A	R	R	A	T	I	V	E	Z	M	Q	V	R	N	E	S
K	R	Y	R	R	Y	I	E	Y	Y	M	L	N	U	U	O	S	P
M	S	C	E	N	A	E	Z	R	A	X	N	S	S	N	T	C	E
I	S	P	L	A	G	I	A	R	I	S	M	E	E	K	T	R	L
N	T	M	L	I	S	M	G	E	N	T	S	N	A	E	M	I	L
T	R	U	N	A	M	Z	X	A	Z	H	I	T	O	O	O	P	I
V	U	S	T	U	P	A	L	D	O	E	X	E	F	M	R	T	N
E	C	T	S	D	D	G	X	F	W	M	C	N	U	E	N	I	G
S	T	D	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	C	U	E	I	V	T
U	U	R	T	U	W	R	I	T	I	N	G	E	E	T	N	E	X
N	R	L	E	M	P	N	X	K	Z	N	O	X	W	O	R	D	S
D	E	V	E	L	O	P	M	E	N	T	X	I	L	F	R	C	Z

CHARACTER	CONFLICT	DESCRIPTIVE	SENTENCE
SUPPORTING	CLIMAX	NARRATIVE	SUMMARY
DEVELOPMENT	THEME	STRUCTURE	STORY
HOOK	SPELLING	PLAGIARISM	WORDS
ENDING	GRAMMAR	WRITING	READ

Have you completed the task?