

Internal Details

Fiction and nonfiction stories usually include internal details. This is what the people or characters are thinking and feeling. You may share the internal details of only one character, of two, or of many. It depends on how you write your story.



In some other worksheets on creative writing, I've used the example of Little Red Riding Hood. Let's use this story again and look at the internal details of Red and the Big Bad Wolf (BBW) in each scene. I will focus on feelings:

Scene	Red	BBW
Red's mother sends her to her Grandma's	Happy, excited	
Red meets the BBW	Nervous	happy, excited
Red and the BBW talk	relieved	ecstatic
BBW runs to the grandmother's		starving
BBW tricks and eats the grandmother		happy but still
greedy		
BBW dresses up in the grandmother's clothes		smug, nervous
Red arrives, talks to "grandma"	happy then nervous	excited
BBW attacks Red	terrified	triumphant
The Woodsman comes	relieved	terrified
The Woodsman kills the wolf and saves Grandma	joyful	dead

Because this is a simple story, the emotions are pretty simple. In a nonfiction story you may have a wider range of emotions such as tenderness, jealousy, anger, trust, inspiration, love, pride, and so many more. To make a table of thoughts you would do the same thing, focusing on thoughts the character doesn't say out loud. For example, when the BBW meets Red he talks nicely to her. But his thoughts might be, "She looks so delicious! But I want to eat the grandmother as well!"

Your turn! Make a list of your characters' thoughts and emotions for each scene. You don't have to do this with every person or character, but you should for those who are central to the story.

Scene

Character 1

Character 2
