

Plot Line

Every story has a plot line. Before beginning your story, you should summarize or outline your plot. You don't need to include everything, just the major events. That way you'll know where your story is going. For example, here is how I might summarize the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears:



Beginning: The characters are Goldilocks, who lives near the woods, and the Three Bears, who live in the woods.

First scene: The Three Bears decide to go for a walk while their porridge cools; Goldilocks also decides to take a walk in the woods.

And then: Goldilocks discovers the Bears' house.

Because this: She decides to knock, but no one answers.

Because of this: She goes inside.

And then: She sees the breakfast. Her walk has made her hungry.

Because of this: She tries the food. She likes one of the bowls and eats it all.

And then: She tries the chairs, but the one she likes breaks.

Because of this: She tries the beds, and one is very comfortable, so she falls asleep.

And then: The Bears return home.

Because of this: They see someone has eaten their food and sat in their chairs.

Because of this: They know someone is in the house, so search for them.

Because of this: They find Goldilocks in Baby Bear's bed. They wake her.

Because of this: Goldilocks screams and runs off.

Notice that each action or scene leads to the next. Sometimes something in one scene directly causes another. For example, Goldilocks tries the beds because the chair breaks. Sometimes one scene doesn't cause another, but still leads to it.

Your turn! Use as few or as many steps as you need to get through your story. After "First scene" start each with either "Because of this" or "And then."

Beginning

Where and when the story happens: _____

Beginning: _____

First Scene: _____

_____:

_____:

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