



Step 1: Plan for Success

Seven Steps Writing Tips

Planning is a crucial first step when writing. The difficult part is getting children to do it!

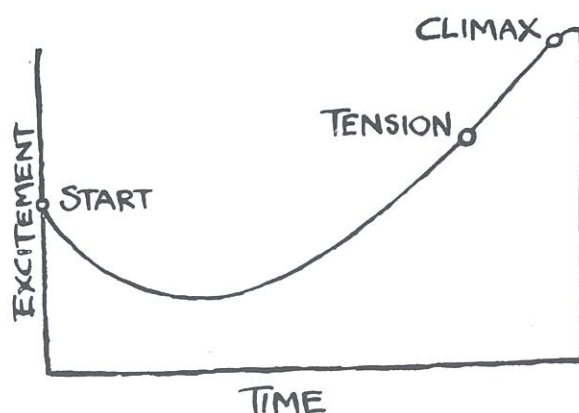
It's hard to show people **how** to plan, so here's a quick method. Good stories (like movies, books, poems and even jokes) are all planned and they all have a similar structure. This is what it looks like:

1. **Start with a bang** – start with an action scene or at a moment of change.
2. **Backfill** – the Who, What, Why is filled in while the story unfolds.
3. **Complication set-up** – the main problem or premise is introduced.
4. **Pebble** – the tension starts to build.
5. **Brick** – the tension increases.
6. **Boulder** – the final tension scene has the reader on the edge of their seat; the stakes are very high.
7. **Climax** – the character triumphs against all odds.
8. **Character resolution** – the character's inner story is wrapped up.

Once writers master this basic structure, they can plan more effectively and this will really improve their writing.

TOP TIP:

Think first, write second.
Draw a graph like this one and plot your stories out before you start writing.



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Watch TV advertisements, the ones that 'tell a story'. In 30 seconds, some advertisements include a sizzling start, a tension scene and an exciting ending, exactly like the Story Graph.



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