



Step 6: Ban the Boring

Seven Steps Writing Tips

Why do children always fill their stories with boring details? How many of these have you read?

- **Food fetishes:**

We were at Disneyworld and we got to eat hamburgers with chips and a big thick milkshake. I had two whole bottles of Coke and my sister had...

- **Bedroom boredom:**

I woke up that morning and leapt out of bed and put on my best jeans and a jumper and then cleaned my teeth and put on my shoes...

- **Trapped in travel:**

In the bus on the way to the swimming carnival we waved at the cars and Mark made us sing really boring songs and then we put our streamers through the windows and...

It's called 'warm-up' writing because people start with the safe and familiar. Professional authors know this – some authors even cut out the first few chapters when editing, so their book jumps straight into the action.

TOP TIP:

We often learn more about what kids ate on the way to the zoo than what happened when the lion escaped. So simply tell children to cut out the boring bits: no beds, no bus trips, no boring lists of friends or food.

(See also Step 1: Sizzling Starts)



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Watch movies and see how few 'boring bits' they use. They rarely show people using the toilet, brushing their teeth or blow-drying their hair. Even stranger, notice how people never seem to travel, they just arrive.

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