

Topic One Ideas

There are stories to be told everywhere.

You don't have to go far before finding something exciting or sad or happy to explore.

Try 1 or all 5 of the following tips and ideas to help you think of new ways of writing a story.





Idea One Go Exploring

Go Exploring



Go for a walk and pretend to be a detective searching out new clues in order to make a drama.

Take a small notebook with you so you can jot down your ideas and the following:

5 things that you see

5 things that you hear

5 interesting smells



What If?

The things you note down DON'T have to be strange or out of the ordinary. The five things that you might see are:

- Grass
- Flowers
- Woman walking dog
- Man jogging
- Two boys playing football.

These 5 examples are all very normal, but this is where you start to use your imagination.



Think about those two boys playing football, then ask yourself What If?

This is a very, very important question to get you started.

These two boys playing football look very normal but **what if** they could transform into anyone or anything that you want them to be.

What if these boys would one day play football for Wales?

What if these boys were just about to have a terrible fight?

What if these boys were playing football for charity and had to keep going for 24 hours?

All of the **What if** examples above are three completely different starting points for a story, all beginning with two boys playing football that you saw on your walk.

Stories can start from anywhere; you just need to ask some questions.

When you ask more questions, The possibilities are endless....

When you come home from your walk, look at all the sights, sounds and smells you noted and start asking questions.

For example:

If you heard a lorry whilst out walking, you could ask the following questions:

- Where was it going?
- Who was driving?
- What kind of lorry was it?
- Were they in a hurry? Why?
- Were they doing something bad or good?
- Could the lorry drive into the park? Why would it?
- Was it a magical lorry? If so, what was it doing here?



TOP TIP: The answers to your questions will give you the starting point for a story.





Idea Two

Chatting in your home



Chatting in your home

Chat to your family or neighbours.

Everyone has a story to tell – either something that happened to them or something that they know about. Once again, you can change and develop the actual stories as you want to, rather than having to retell them exactly as they were told to you.

Aim to have three separate conversations with members of your family or neighbours

Try and ask them about their life.

- What was difficult and challenging?
- Are there things that they miss?
- Can they remember a particular day or significant event?
- Has anything spooky ever happened to them that they can't explain? Maybe they saw a strange light or a ghost? Maybe things were moved around without any explanation in the house where they used to live.
- Ask them about what life was like when they were a child?

Maybe they remember specific times in history...

- Do they remember the moon landing?
- Do they remember the miners' strike?
- Have they ever been in a major storm? What happened to them?
- Have they ever seen an eclipse of the sun?

Make sure that you ask how they **felt** at the time and what **happened in the end**.

Also ask them for **details** such as, what they were wearing, what was the weather like or who else was there.

TOP TIP: Remember to jot down what they tell you and then think about how you might write this into your own story.

Don't forget you don't have to stick to the facts as they were told. You can add new details, different characters or change the ending.



A collage of various social media logos and icons. Visible logos include YouTube (red rounded rectangle with white text), Instagram (brown camera icon with rainbow stripe), Facebook (blue thumbs up icon), Vimeo (blue cursive text), Blogger (orange 'b' icon with blue text), Flickr (blue and pink text), Twitter (blue bird icon), and a 'Like' button (grey rounded rectangle with thumbs up icon and text). The logos are scattered across the background in different orientations and colors.

Idea Three

Search the News

Search the News

Every single day there are lots of stories in the news on the TV, on the internet, on social media and in newspapers from all over the UK and the rest of the world.

Try to find three unusual headlines.

You could do this by;

- Looking through a newspaper or magazines that you have at home.
- Looking online. (The BBC or other news websites have a top ten of popular headlines).

Choose a headline that appeals to you and then start asking questions.



For example:

If a person has won the lottery, imagine who this person could be and ask the following questions:

- Are they quite poor or do they have lots of money already?
- What if they are a young person and it was the first time that they tried the lottery?
- What if someone else in their family says that the ticket was theirs?
- How would their life change if they won lots of money?
- What would they do first? Buy a house and a new car?
- What if they won all this money but weren't able to spend it in a time when all the shops are closed and it's difficult to go anywhere?

TOP TIP: *Once you start asking questions, then the idea starts to grow. Once you have written lots of these ideas down, choose one of them, and start developing characters and story from them.*





Idea Four

Listen to Music



Listen to Music

Listen to some music or a particular song.

Choose something that is unfamiliar to you, rather than something that you already know.

- Turn the radio on and listen to whatever is playing.
- Close your eyes and let the music take you to a different place and time.
- Who is there with you? What do they want to do?
- What kind of world does this music make you think of? Is it very different from yours?



TOP TIP: Try BBC Radio 3 or Classic FM for a piece of music rather than a song.





Idea Five

Use a Painting or Photograph





Use Paintings or Photographs

Often, a painting or photograph sets a scene.

People are doing something within the picture, but they are frozen in the middle of action.

Choose one painting or photograph and look and think about:

- Who are these people?
- What are they doing?
- What happened before this picture?
- What might happen next?



TOP TIP: Take inspiration from the paintings and photographs and ask yourself lots of questions to help you form your story.



To sum up:

Take inspiration from everything (and everyone) around you

A drama doesn't have to be happening in far off lands – it could be right on your doorstep

Ask lots of questions once you have your starting point

Maybe the most important question is **What If?**

This can spark your imagination and take you anywhere....

