

VASISHTHA GENESIS SCHOOL, BARDOLI

(Academic Session: 2026-27)

Date: _____ Class: 8th Div: _____ Roll No: _____ Sub: English
Name: _____ Worksheet: English (Story Writing)

A story writing is an art that requires a lot of communication skills. First of all, it requires the art of narrating things in an interesting way. You will be given either the introductory lines or some hints given in the input or both. You have to develop the story basing it on the information given in the input or the introductory lines. You have to develop it on the same theme as intended by the introductory lines or by the input. You can't go against the stated theme.

Main Elements of a Story

The different elements which comprise a short story are given below:

- 1. THEME** – This is the main idea. It may be a message, moral an abstract idea, a lesson learnt, etc.
- 2. PLOT** – It is the logical sequence of events which lead to the conclusion. The type of plot may be adventurous, scary, a mystery, suspenseful, comic, etc.
- 3. SETTING** – It is the background or location where the action takes place. It may be realistic or fictional.
- 4. CHARACTERS** – The story usually has people, animals, or other living creatures, but they must be based on real life to give story credibility. Usually there is one main character in the story with other minor characters to support the plot.
- 5. MOOD / ATMOSPHERE** – It may be cheerful/happy, tense, scary, suspenseful or neutral, depending on the question.

Steps to write a Short Story

1. Start the story in an interesting manner which attracts the readers.
2. Develop the characters in the story through meaningful dialogues.
3. Use the setting and context to develop the mood and atmosphere.
4. Develop the plot by creating tension or a conflict through opposition between characters or between main character and external forces.
5. Build up to a climax and find a resolution to the conflict, thus ending the story appropriately.

Points to be kept in mind

1. Focus should be on a single incident.
2. Always use past tense while writing a story.
3. Frame the story keeping in mind the central character.
4. Consequence/Climax of the story should be clear and satisfying.
5. Make simple and innovative use of language.
6. Stick to the word limit of 150-200 words.
7. Make sure that the story has a moral/message if it requires one.
8. A title may be given to the story if the question requires it, other wise it is optional.

Format of a Story

Write a short story in 150-200 words with the cues given below:

"It was very early on a cloudy morning when I was awakened by the sound of bells ringing outside the closed door of my room. I jumped out of my bed instantly to see if a surprise awaited me. I want to ____"

A Birthday worth Remembering

It was very early on a cloudy morning when I was awakened by the sound of bells ringing outside the closed door of my room. I jumped out of my bed instantly to see if a surprise awaited me. I went to the door and was surprised at what I saw.

My happiness knew no bounds when I saw my friends, Raj and Shweta, standing in front of me to make my birthday special. They had decorated the entire house with beautiful carnations, balloons and my pictures. All around the walls of the dining room were colourful paper streamers in various patterns. It was a wonderful sight to behold.

They had planned it all in advance with my parents as a surprise for me. They made sure that it remained a secret and were successful at it. They had got my favourite cake from a very famous and renowned bakery in town. Their selfless love, priceless blessings and wonderful gifts brought tears to my eyes. After breakfast, we enjoyed a movie at home. I was very excited to taste all the delicious dishes that were prepared for lunch. My elation at discovering the dinner plan made by my parents was endless. My mother had prepared all my favourite dishes for dinner.

I could not thank God enough for the amazing birthday I was blessed with. It was then that I realised how much my parents and friends valued me. I will remember this day for a long time.

→ **Title/Heading** – it is a short summary of 4-5 words to draw the reader's attention. (it is optional)

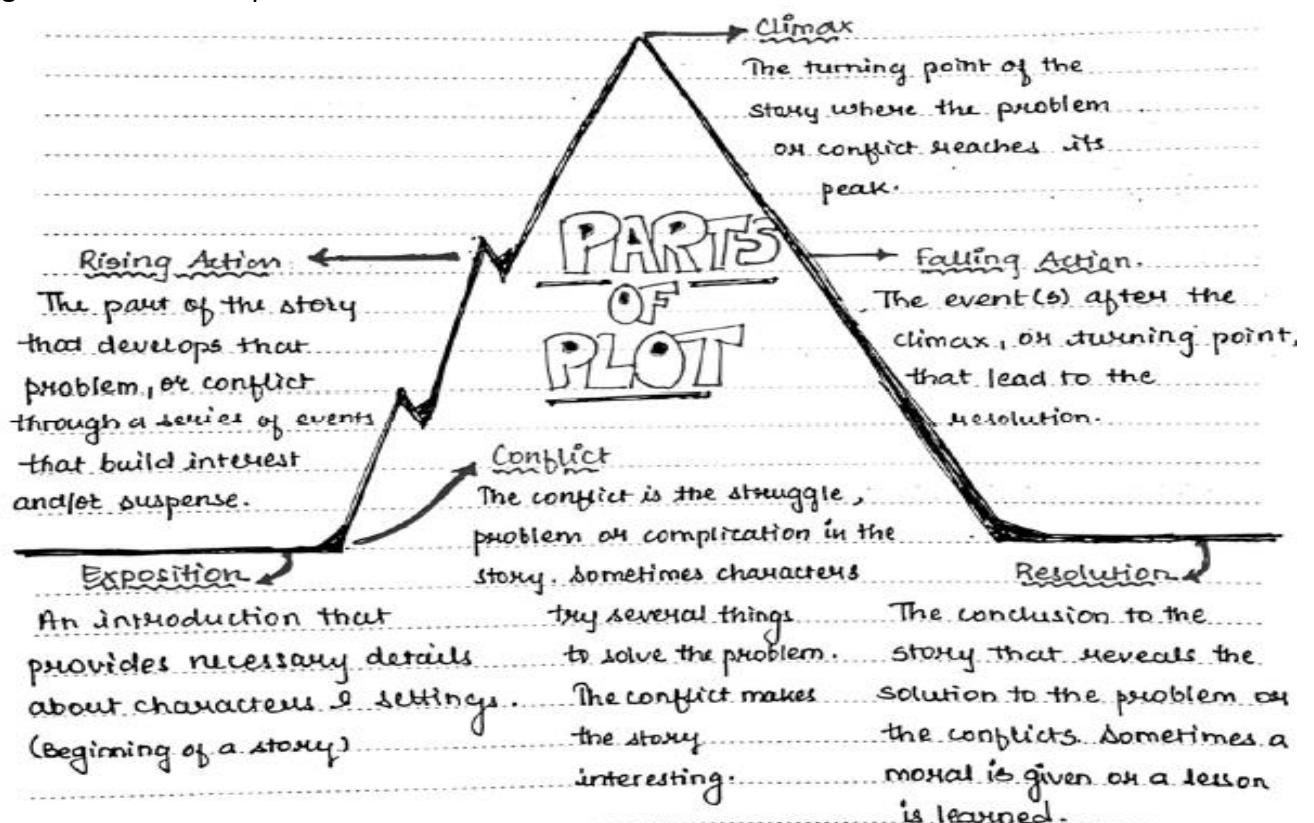
An Interesting Start

Building the Plot

A Justified Climax / Conclusion

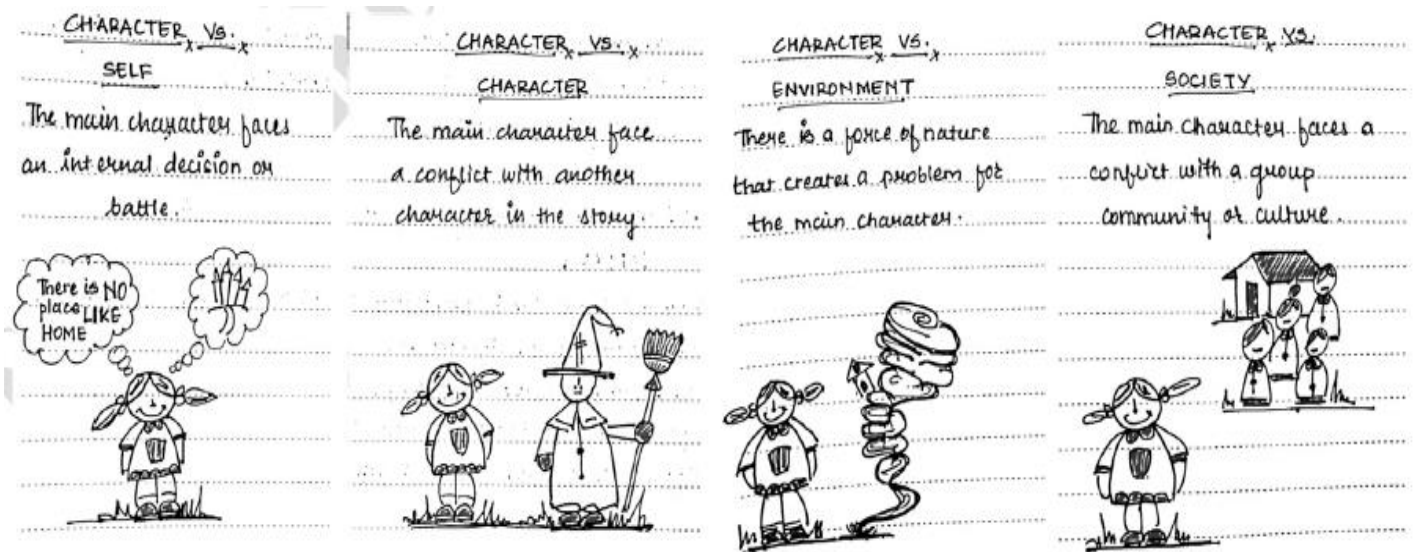
What is a Plot?

A plot is the basic sequence of events in a story. It consists of mainly six parts: (i) Exposition; (ii) Conflict; (iii) Rising Action; (iv) Climax; (v) Falling action; (vi) Resolution. The below given diagram is called a Story Mountain. This way an author can make a story in a more chronological and systematic manner, keeping the reader glued to the entire plot.



Types of Conflict

All great fiction stories have some type of conflict. There are four main types of conflicts an author might choose to incorporate into the storyline of their story. Sometimes stories might have more than one type of conflict.



Salient features of Story Writing

1. Basically, developing and writing a good story needs the art of narration. You have to narrate the incidents in a sequential order leading to the final conclusion.
2. Students should follow the basic theme as expounded by the input or by the introductory lines. They are not supposed to invent new and different themes. Within the given limits, students are left with enough space where they can give expression to their creative talents.
3. The beginning and the concluding lines must support the main part or the events described in the story.

Question 1: Write a story in 150-200 words with the help of the following outline. Give it a suitable title also.

Bunya was a foolish boy, who was an attention seeker. He was a woodcutter and would go deep into the jungle to cut trees. One day he wanted to do an act of mischief. He shouted at the top of his voice, "There's a tiger, tiger, there's a tiger"

Answer:

The False alarm

Bunya was a foolish boy, who was an attention seeker. He was a woodcutter and would go deep into the jungle to cut trees. One day he wanted to do an act of mischief. He shouted at the top of his voice, "There's a tiger, tiger, there's a tiger ..." even when there was no trace of it. The villagers came running hurriedly thinking that Bunya was in danger. Bunya's mother had tears in her eyes. The villagers came ready with their safety weapons and upon reaching; they saw no tiger but just Bunya laughing on playing them. The villagers were hurt and they started swearing out of disappointment. Bunya had no realization as to what he had done and he continued laughing stealthily. A week passed by and everyone was ignoring Bunya. One fine day, he and his friend went into the woods. Just like any other day, they started doing their job while chatting with each other. Suddenly, they heard a roar nearby. The tiger was towards his friend's side of the jungle. Bunya went running to the villagers asking them for help. No one listened to him as they thought it was one of his pranks. He cried for help, but no one trusted him. He ran towards the tea vendor and told him the entire story. The tea vendor gave him the benefit of the doubt and went with him. Till the time they reached there, his friend could be seen nowhere. They called out his name and looked in the woods, but it was too late. Bunya realized and accepted that it was his entire mistake.

Moral: "Truth doesn't cost you anything but a lie could cost you everything".

Question 2: Complete the story in 150-200 words which begins as the following:

There was a joint family of six members including grandparents. It was the 75th birthday of the grandmother and the family planned to celebrate.

Answer:

Surprise!!

There was a joint family of six members, including the grandparents. It was the 75th birthday of the grandmother and the family planned to celebrate it by throwing a surprise party. The family began going out for preparations and since it was supposed to be a surprise, they would leave their grandmother alone at home. As the big day came nearer, the grandmother started feeling isolated and lonely. She believed that since everyone was caught up in their own business, they had forgotten about her birthday. She felt sad but never expressed it to anyone. On the day of her birthday, no one wished her. Everyone started getting ready and told her that they had their own respective plans. The grandfather asked her to accompany him for a walk. It was all a part of their plan. The grandfather took the route to the venue and didn't make it look in a way that could make her suspicious. Upon reaching the venue, the lights suddenly went on and everybody shouted, "Happy Birthday". The grandmother was overwhelmed and tears of love came rolling down her eyes. This was the happiest birthday till then.

Question 3: Write a short story in 200 - 250 words, with the help of the cues given below. Give a suitable title to the story.

Satish was standing on the balcony watching the last rays of the Sun. Loud and angry voices in the street below distracted his attention. He ran down the stairs to see what had happened.....

Answer:

The Last Day

Satish was standing on the balcony watching the last rays of the Sun. Loud and angry voices in the street below distracted his attention. He ran down the stairs to see what had happened. His neighbors were again fighting over some parking issues. It was a common scene among the residents of that area. No sooner did he reach there when suddenly the land between the neighbors' buildings started tearing apart. Everyone got frightened. Satish ran back to his house to find his daughter and wife. They were both ready with their emergency baggage. The family got out of the house and started running as fast as they could, passing the falling trees and buildings. Water was penetrating out of the departing land and everyone was panicking and running in any direction to save their lives when suddenly, Satish's daughter fell down. A tree fell over her feet. Satish was trying to help his crying daughter when they both saw a building falling over them. Satish hugged his daughter and shouted at the peak of his voice which finally woke him up. With sighs of heavy breathing and excessive sweating, Satish went to his daughter's room only to find that everything was fine. He kissed her forehead, went back to his room and wondered; "Phew! This one really took the life out of me".

Question 4: Write a short story in 200 - 250 words, with the help of the cues given below. Give a suitable title to the story.

It was Mohini's first day at the new school. She was feeling very nervous. She stood in a corner and watched the students who were laughing and talking excitedly. When she saw four senior students advancing towards her, she.....

Answer:

Things are Not Always What They Seem

It was Mohini's first day at the new school. She was feeling very nervous. She stood in a corner and watched the students who were laughing and talking excitedly. When she saw four senior students advancing towards her, she got terrified and started going towards her classroom hurriedly. The four students caught up with her speed and cornered her. Drops of sweat rolled down her face as she muttered in a trembling voice, "Leave me alone". They started coming nearer as they sensed her fear. Two tall boys and two girls of medium height looked at her and gave her spine-chilling terror. Before Mohini could shout, one of the girls covered her mouth and they all started laughing. Mohini was left astonished. To make things clear, one of the boys told her that they had been assigned to guide her through the school and assist her to

make her feel comfortable. They were coming nearer to introduce themselves and thought of playing a small prank when Mohini started running away from them. Mohini breathed a sigh of relief and conveyed that she thought she was about to get bullied.

Question 5: Write a story teaching the importance of hard work in 150-200 words using the following cues:

A girl called Manya --- - enrolled in dream college made friends had fun - - - - could not study ---- got poor marks

Answer:

Play Hard, Work Harder

There once lived a hard-working girl called Manya. She topped in the district in the entrance exams, which opened up the option of enrolling into the college of her dreams. She was elated. Her easy-going personality made it easy for her to befriend other batch mates. During the first few months, she had a blast with her friends. Instead of studying, they engaged in more fun and memorable activities. While she was having fun, her exams drew nearer. In the back of her mind, she was worried that she was not studying enough anymore. Her friends assured her that she worried too much and not studying made her look cooler. So to impress her newly-made friends, she did not study. When the exams were just round the corner, she could not study as she neither made good notes nor did she listen to the lectures properly. While attempting the question paper, she realized that her mind was as blank as her answer sheet! She got poor marks. She realized that she should not give up her hard-working nature for anything, even for the sake of looking cool. She then ended her friendship and went back to being her true self.

Question 6: Write a story on the title "A Lucky Day" in 150-200 words using the following cues:

Woke up at time ----- family in good mood - - - - no traffic - - - - happy boss and friendly colleagues win lottery

Answer:

Lucky Day

There once lived a middle-aged man named Chaitanya. He lived a fast-paced and overly stressed life. However, one day, everything changed. For the first time, he woke up at the sound of his alarm. He was happy and decided to get ready for work. Usually, the family began fighting and complaining as soon as they woke up. However, that day, they were in a good mood. He was surprised but thought nothing of it. He then started his car and drove to the office. He observed that there was no traffic and he was able to reach his workplace ten minutes earlier than usual. Now, he realized that today was not like the other days. He met his boss, who too was happy. The boss even offered a raise, which was unusual. His colleagues were friendly too, and he was able to be more productive. Suddenly, he got a phone call. It was from a company who held a lottery. He got to know that he had won the biggest prize in the lottery - two tickets to Hawaii. Elated, he realized that the day was indeed a lucky day for him.