

Worksheet 1: What kind of story are you going to write?

Grace uses her Special Blue Book for her stories and plays.

When you write a story, you can do it in the **first person** like in *A Room Full Of Chocolate*. I was inside Grace's head when I wrote this:

Mum found a lump under her arm on my tenth birthday.

I wrote this fact down in my Special Blue Book that I use for my stories and plays.

You might choose to write in the **third person**. This means you are on the outside looking at the action. If I had written *A Room Full of Chocolate* in the third person it would be like this:

'Grace's mum found a lump under her arm. It was Grace's tenth birthday.

She wrote this fact down in her Special Blue Book that she used for her stories and plays.'

Or you might want to write **a play**. You are now going to learn how to set your play out as a script. First you will need stage directions. These set the scene and describe what the characters do – not what they say. This is an example of stage directions from my play *Fish Boy*:

Scene 2. *August 4th – morning. Budget Buy hypermarket in Ponders End. The storm is still raging outside. We hear a massive clap of thunder. Sonia is putting cans of baked beans on a shelf.*

- When a character leaves the stage we say they Exit.
- When a character enters the stage we say they Enter.
- Characters can exit and enter during a scene.

Scene 1

Write a few lines of stage directions to set up the first scene of your play. Think about what time of day it is. You will need to write a short description of the location. This is where you are going to set your play, it could be:

- A room in a house
- A market
- An airport
- A school room
- The park
- A shop
- A zoo
- A museum
- Or anywhere else you would like the play to be set.

Are any characters already in the room? What are they doing?

You now have to decide how you want to set out your dialogue. Dialogue is when your characters are speaking to each other. It can look like this:

Tom: I have lost my new jacket and it looks exactly like the one that Harry is wearing.

Maisy: Why don't you go and ask him if it is yours?

Or it can look like this:

Tom

I have lost my new jacket and it looks like the one Harry is wearing.

Maisy

Why don't you go and ask him if it is yours?

Choose which way you would like to set out your dialogue.

You are now ready to start writing Scene 1 of your play or the first chapter of your book.