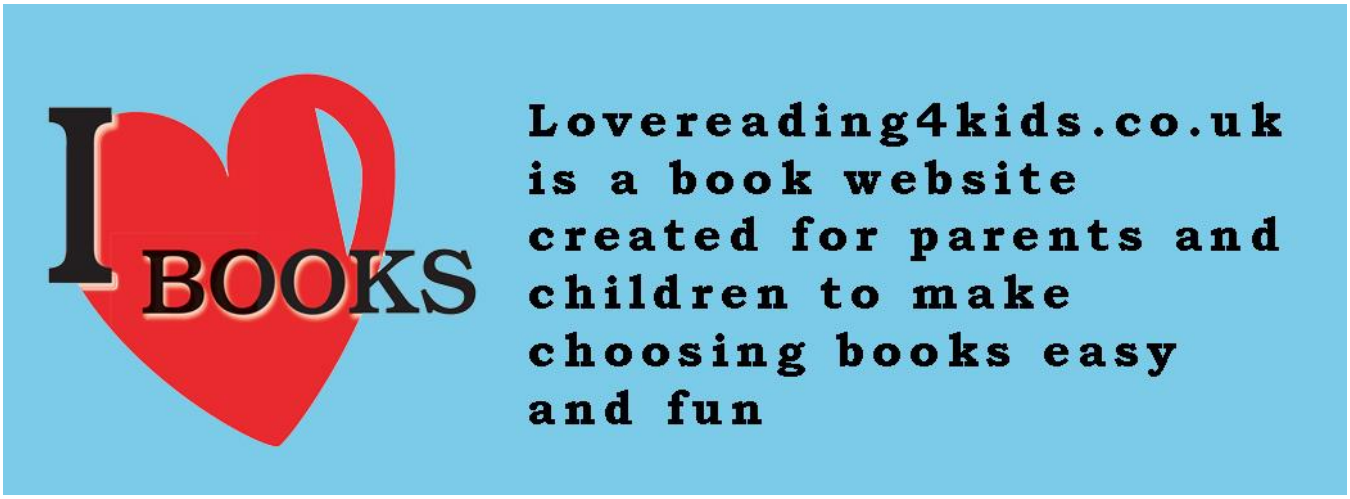


extracts from

Creative Writer's Handbook

Written by

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Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Blogs

A blog (short for 'web log') is an online journal that is regularly updated. It's written in a chatty, informal style.

Blog name

Give your blog a catchy name that's easy to remember.

Bio

Introduce yourself to your readers in the 'bio' section. (Never use your full name or include details of where you live or go to school.)

Posts

Each new entry is called a 'post'. Choose a headline and a topic for each post.

Talk to your readers as you would talk to a friend.

Photos

Photos will grab your reader's attention. Use your own, or take them from a free website.

Lists keep the reader interested.

Stay safe online

If you're writing a blog, please read our internet safety tips at the Usborne Quicklinks website – see page 96.

Amy goes abroad

About me

Hello! My name's Amy and I love to travel. Follow my blog as I share my stories, photos and travel tips.



Amy goes abroad

Sun, sea and sand

2 hours ago

I was super excited when we arrived at the hotel. Paradise! Nothing but blue skies and golden sand as far as the eyes could see...



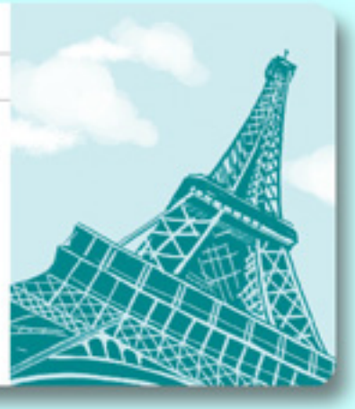
Amy goes abroad

Top travel destinations

1 week ago

Paris is my top destination for a city break. My must-see sights include:

- The Eiffel Tower
- Montmatre
- The Musée d'Orsay



For more ideas on how to find a focus for your blog, see pages 10-13.

Find a focus

When you're picking a theme for your blog, choose something that fascinates you, so you'll have plenty to write about. Try to stick to a single theme to give your blog a strong identity.



Writing tips

- Write in the first person ('I').
- Adress your readers directly with 'you'.
- Break up each post into smaller chunks and add subheadings.
- Use short sentences that are easy to read.
- Don't get too caught up in facts and figures – your readers want to know what *you* think.
- Speak your post out loud to check that it sounds like you.

Listen to your readers

Try to respond to any comments and questions from your readers. Show them that you're listening – that way, they'll want to visit your blog again. (You can control which comments are visible on your blog – and remember to ignore any rude or negative comments.)

Paris looks amazing – I can't wait to go! What was the food like?

Ellie

Hi Ellie! The food was delicious – I ate sooo much cheese. The camembert was to die for!

Amy goes abroad

Usborne Quicklinks

For more tips on writing a blog visit the Usborne Quicklinks website at www.usborne.com/quicklinks and type in the title of this book.

Fantasy words

How to start

Read fantasy stories

- Fairy tales
- Nordic sagas
- Myths and legends
- The Lord of the Rings

Create a new world

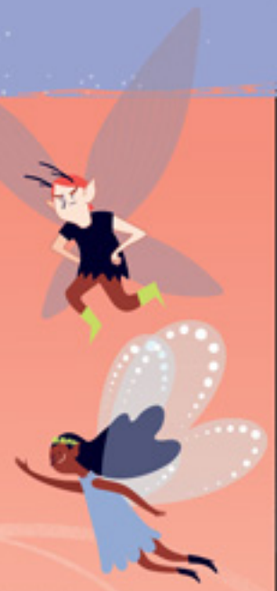
- What's its history?
- How does its society operate?
- Where are the key locations?
- Who are the inhabitants?
- How do they communiate?
- How advanced is the technology?

Borrow from history

Examples from history can enhance your fantasy world, whether it's a medieval joust, an Aztec sacrifice or a Roman invasion...

Fairy ring
Crystal ball
Demon
Dragon
Dwarf
Alchemy
Giant
Goblin
Gnome
Malevolence
Sage
Centaur

Oracle
Legend
Quest
Amulet
Kingdom
Elf
Pixie



Convince the reader

In fantasy and sci fi stories, anything can happen... so long as you make the plot and the setting plausible. Create a convincing world where unbelievable things really could happen.



Ogre
Mischief
Talisman
Soothsayer
Lands

Realm
Faraway
Magic carpet
Harbinger

Sci Fi words

Alien
Time travel
Parallel universe
Android
Beam
Spaceship
Cyberspace
Telepathy
Dystopia
Force field

Force field
Gravitation
Technology
Virtual
X-ray vision
Microbes
Meteors
Hollographic
Extraterrestrial
Ray gun
Robot
Teleporting
Clone
Experiment
Breakthrough
Atomic
Futuristic
Revolutionary
Radical
Concept





Writing tip

However alien your characters, make sure your readers can identify with them and understand where they're coming from.

Sources of inspiration

What if

Science fiction is where hypothetical questions become reality, so keep asking yourself 'What if...?'

Big issues

Use a fictional world to explore big, real life issues, such as:

- Terrorism
- Pollution
- Overpopulation
- Globalisation
- Superbugs



Plot devices

Plot devices are elements that move a story on. They should link seemlessly within a story.

A framing device

A story told within the context of another story.

The 1001 Nights stories are all told within the framework of a wife narrating tales to her husband, the Sultan.

A discovery

A sudden realization of how characters are related or how events are linked.

Anonymous letter?

Old photograph?

A chase scene

Exciting action, used to heighten tension.

Car chase

Over the rooftops

Dangling from a helicopter

A cliffhanger

An abrupt ending to a chapter or episode that leaves the reader or viewer desperate to know what happens next.

Will Aladdin ever escape the cave?

Will the 40 ruthless thieves find Ali Baba?

Will Sinbad be rescued from the valley of man-eating snakes?

A narrative hook

This is a way to draw the reader in and catch their attention.

A dramatic opener

A curious statement

A reversal

The circumstances are turned on their head.

Cinderella's step-sisters end up in rags.

A twist

An unexpected turn of events, often near the end.

The hero is the villain's father!

It was all a dream.

An object of power

The hero needs to find this object before the villain does, or else...

The key to the lost treasure

The missing formula

A red herring

Something or someone that deflects attention from the real action or facts of a situation.

A forged document

In the wrong place at the wrong time