CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

OVER 70 FUN ACTIVITIES

by Lexi Rees

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How to use this book

This book covers the key components of creative writing: Character, Description, Setting, Planning, Themes, Viewpoint, and Dialogue. In each section there are a variety of activities designed to build skills and confidence, author tips, and lots of story sparks.

Although the activities are grouped into topics, there is no need to work through the book in any particular order. The activities are aimed at children aged seven to eleven. Each section finishes with a more challenging activity but, since there are no right or wrong answers, any child can have a go, regardless of age or ability.

Warning: there are a few activities that need to be done with friends or family, so you might be asked to join in!


CRAFT
PROCCES
IDEAS
ART
CREATIVITY
WRITING . . .
IMAGINATION
BRAINSTORMING
8
DEADLINE
INK?
VISION

Contents

1 Colourful characters

2 Delightful descriptions

3 Super settings

4 Perfect plans

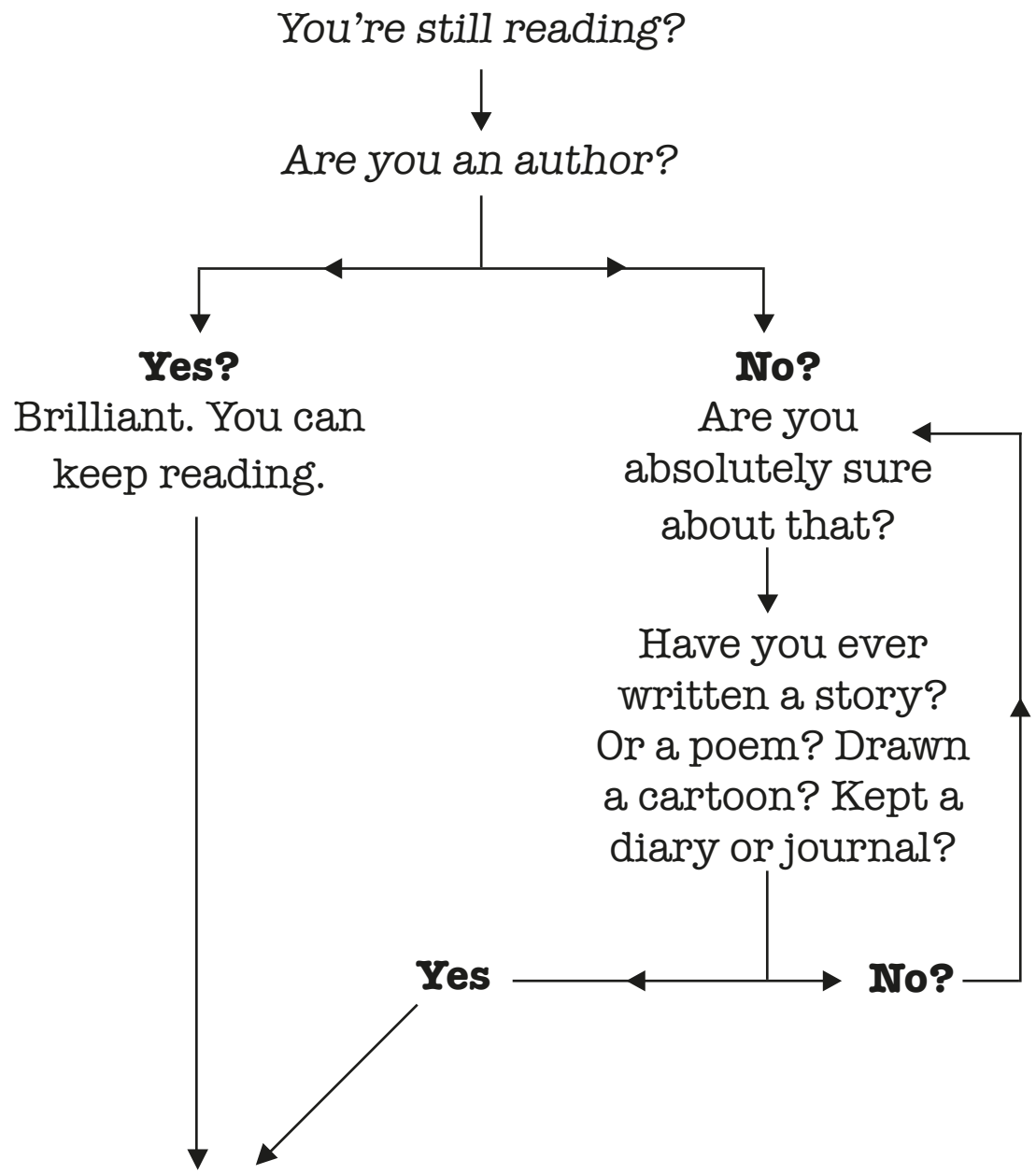
5 Thoughtful themes

6 Various voices

7 Dynamite dialogue

8 Story sparks

TOP SECRET: FOR AMAZING AUTHORS ONLY



So now that's all official, does that mean you'd like to know the secrets to being an AMAZING author?

Here goes then.

This is a big secret.

I mean huge.

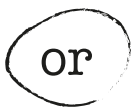
ABSOLUTELY ENORMOUS!

Are you ready.....?

To be an amazing author, it's more important to have a great STORY than great SPELLING.

The big secret is, when you publish a book, an EDITOR checks the spelling and grammar for you. The editor will make it clear if you meant to say,

"Let's eat Grandma." She may be a bit chewy though,



"Let's eat, Grandma." A more civilised tea and biscuits scenario.

So this book is NOT about spelling and punctuation and grammar. It's about creating great stories.

It's about making you into an amazing author.

Let's get started then.

Chapter One

Colourful characters

Characters become more realistic when you know all about them. To do this, you need to answer four questions.

1. **What do they look like?**
2. **What's their name?**
3. **What do they do?**
4. **How do they behave?**



Author tip

Are you wondering why you need to know things like whether your character likes dogs? Maybe you think this sounds a bit silly, but I promise it really works. The more you know about the character, the more realistic they will be when you write about them.

If you were a character in a book, who would you be?











A to Z Describing Characters

Here's a handy A to Z of character traits that you can use when you create your characters.

a adventurous, afraid, ambitious, angry, annoying, arrogant

bad, bold, bossy, brave, busy **b**

c calm, careful, careless, cautious, chatty, cheerful, childish, clever, clumsy, confident, confused, considerate, cooperative, courageous, cruel, curious

d daring, demanding, dependable, depressed, determined, diligent, dishonest, disrespectful, doubtful

eager, easy going, embarrassed, energetic, evil, excitable **e**

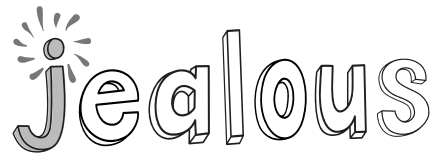
f fickle, foolish, friendly, funny

gentle, grateful, gracious, greedy, grumpy, guilty **g**

h happy, hard-working, helpful, honest

imaginative, impatient, inconsiderate, independent, intelligent **i**







l lazy, lonely, loyal, loud

mad, mean, messy, mischievous, mysterious **m**

n NASTY, NAUGHTY, NERVOUS, NICE, NOISY, NOSY

O obnoxious, odd

P POLITE, PROUD

quiet

reliable, responsible, rowdy, rude r

SAD, SCARY, SELFISH, SERIOUS, SHY, SILLY, SMART, SNEAKY, SORRY, SPOILED, SPORTY, STUBBORN, STUPID, SWEET S

t talented, thoughtful, trustworthy

UNHAPPY, UPSET u

V vicious, villainous, virtuous, vivacious

WEAK, WORRIED W

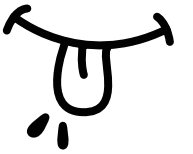
X Xenophobic

yellow-bellied, young y

Z ZANY, ZEALOUS

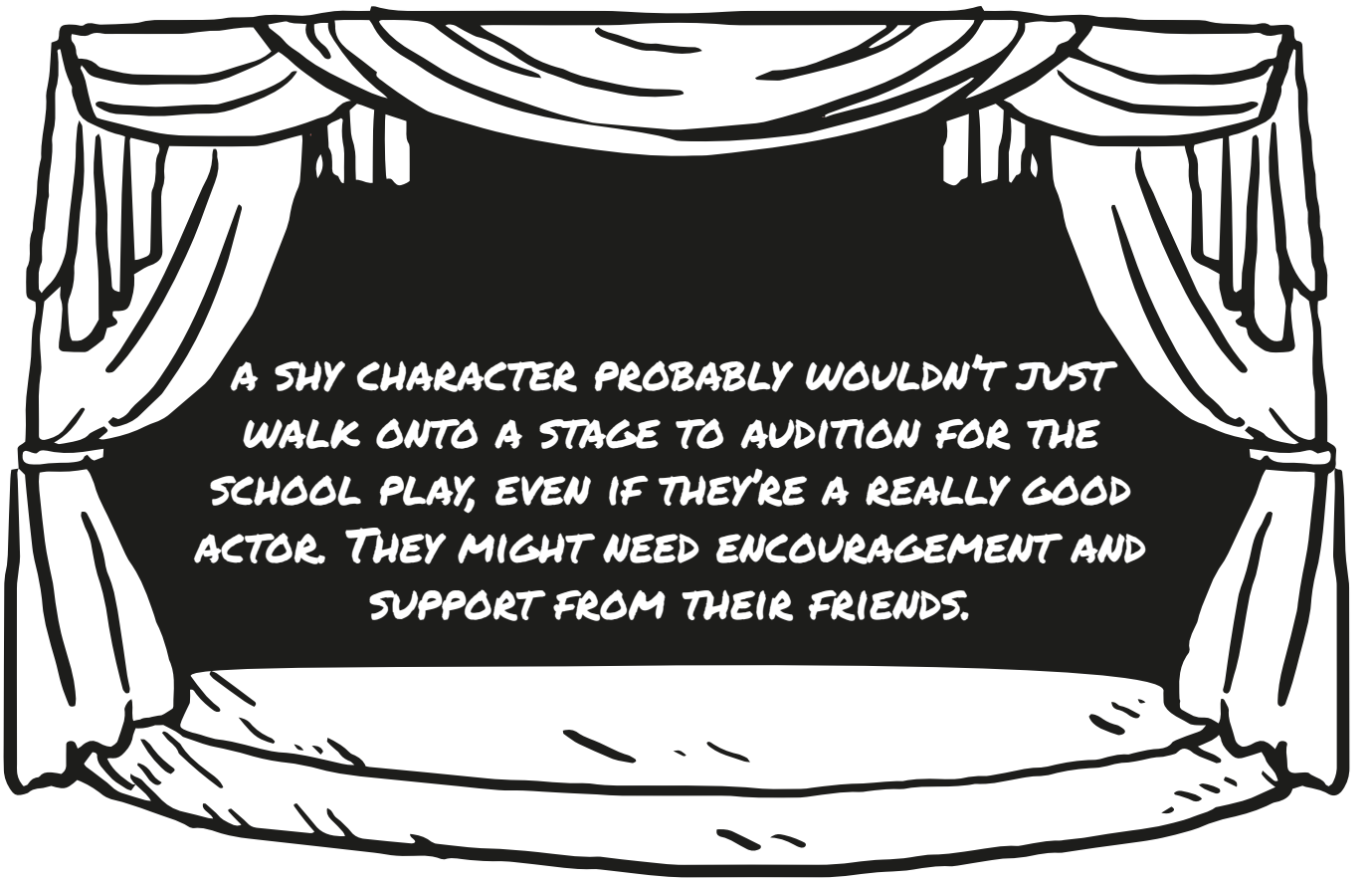


CHARACTER PROFILES



Why do we build character profiles?

They help you get inside your character's head.
Think about these examples...



Or maybe your character was chased by a dog when they were little and now, every time they see a dog, they get scared.



THESE THINGS MIGHT BE REALLY IMPORTANT TO HOW YOUR CHARACTER REACTS AT ONE POINT IN THE STORY

CHARACTER PROFILE TEMPLATE

NAME:

AGE:

LIKES:

DISLIKES:

BAD HABITS:

HOBBIES:

FAVOURITE FOOD:



AUTHOR TIP

If you search for "Character Profiles" online you'll find lots of templates that you can use, or you can design your own.

Think of a character for a story. Draw a picture and create a character profile for them.

YOUR CHARACTER PROFILE

CHARACTER NAME _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

AGE _ _ _ _ _

