



BBC 500 WORDS

DIGITAL RESOURCES PACK

Everything you need:

- Posters and social assets,
- Interactive learning resources,
- Engaging animated films,
- Top tips from the official judges
- And more!





Promotional Assets

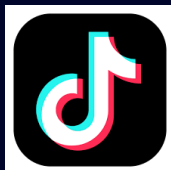
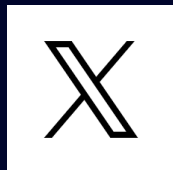
Print our posters!

[\(click to download\)](#)

[Children's](#)
[poster](#)

Open for entries

Tuesday 29 September – Friday 6 November 2026



Inspiration

[What to Expect from 500 Words](#)

From stories to prizes, this article breaks down what families can expect and aims to inspire them to take part in this year's competition.



Three inspiring films from judges Sir Lenny Henry, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Charlie Higson.

Hear from our judges as they share top tips on how to start your 500 words story and break down the judging criteria, and Oxford University Press report.

[What Makes a BRILLIANT 500 Words Story?](#)

[The Importance 500 Words Stories](#)

[What To Think About When Writing Your Story](#)



Learning resources for 5–7 year-olds

Five fun and easy-to-follow animated films

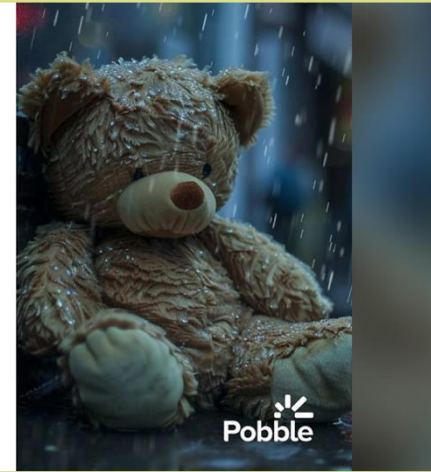
Breaking story writing into manageable steps – perfect for crafting a complete story in just five days!



Use these sentence starters to write your own story.

1. The poor teddy had been left...
2. It sat on the cold...
3. Its fur was...
4. It felt lonely and...

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Pobble's Story Starters

Use these images and prompts as a fun and creative way to inspire children.

Pobble's Reading and writing activities poster

Kickstart story writing with 25 brilliant story writing activities.



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BBC Live Lesson and activity sheets (7-11)



Catch up on the Live lesson:

In case you missed it, catch up on the Live Lesson for the 2025/26 competition. 500 Words judges Sir Lenny Henry and Naomi Wilkinson team up with live artist Venessa Scott to discover the key ingredients of a brilliant story.

Activity sheet 1 - Inspiration from Everyday Objects:

Children are encouraged to choose an object around them and note it on the activity sheet. They then think about a character who owns the object and note why it's special, the character's name, and optionally, what their character looks like.

Activity sheet 2: Interesting Characters:

On activity sheet 2 ask children to describe their character using a sentence with the word 'but'. Encourage pupils to think about their character's motivation and potential problems or conflicts their character might face.

Activity Sheet 3 – Plot:

Children have one minute to start jotting down ideas as to what might happen at each step of their own story mountain.

500 Words 2024 – Live Lesson
Activity sheet

BBC TEACH LIVE LESSONS

Activity 1: Take inspiration from an everyday object to create your own character.

My object is _____

Why is it special to your character?

What is your character called?

inspiration!

Draw or describe your character!



Partner resources for 5-11 year-olds (both categories)



[Beano](#)

Inspiration for story-writing through drawing!

Although 500 Words only accepts written stories, we know that not every story starts with words. Beano share their top tips in this step-by-step guide to writing a 500 Words story for children who don't typically engage with writing.

[Oxford University Press](#)

Help kick-start story writing with this fun activity booklet to get kids writing their 500 Words stories. Each page has fun and creative ways of piecing together stories, from creating characters to drawing locations and editing stories.

[World Book Day](#)

WBD partnered with 500 Words to create some resources for children to discuss personal reading preferences with their peers, to help to identify areas of shared interest and can be used as a brief for their 500 words writing.

