

What Will You Find in Reach for the Stars?

NOTE TO PARENTS: A quick note on how the book works best.

IDEAS, IDEAS, IDEAS: Learn how to brainstorm for ideas for stories.

WHO'S IT FOR?: Being able to identify the different genres (kinds) of literature helps you identify what kind of story you want to write.

THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF A [GOOD] FICTION STORY: Character, Setting, Problem, Plot, and Solution; Learn to read with "Author Eyes" to discover how good books are put together.

CREATING CHARACTERS: Why do you like certain characters? Why are you afraid of others? Learn to analyze a character's personality and then create your own, using charts to help identify Physical Traits, Personality Traits, and Likes & Dislikes of the characters you want to create. Write short "character sketches" so your story people become "real" to you.

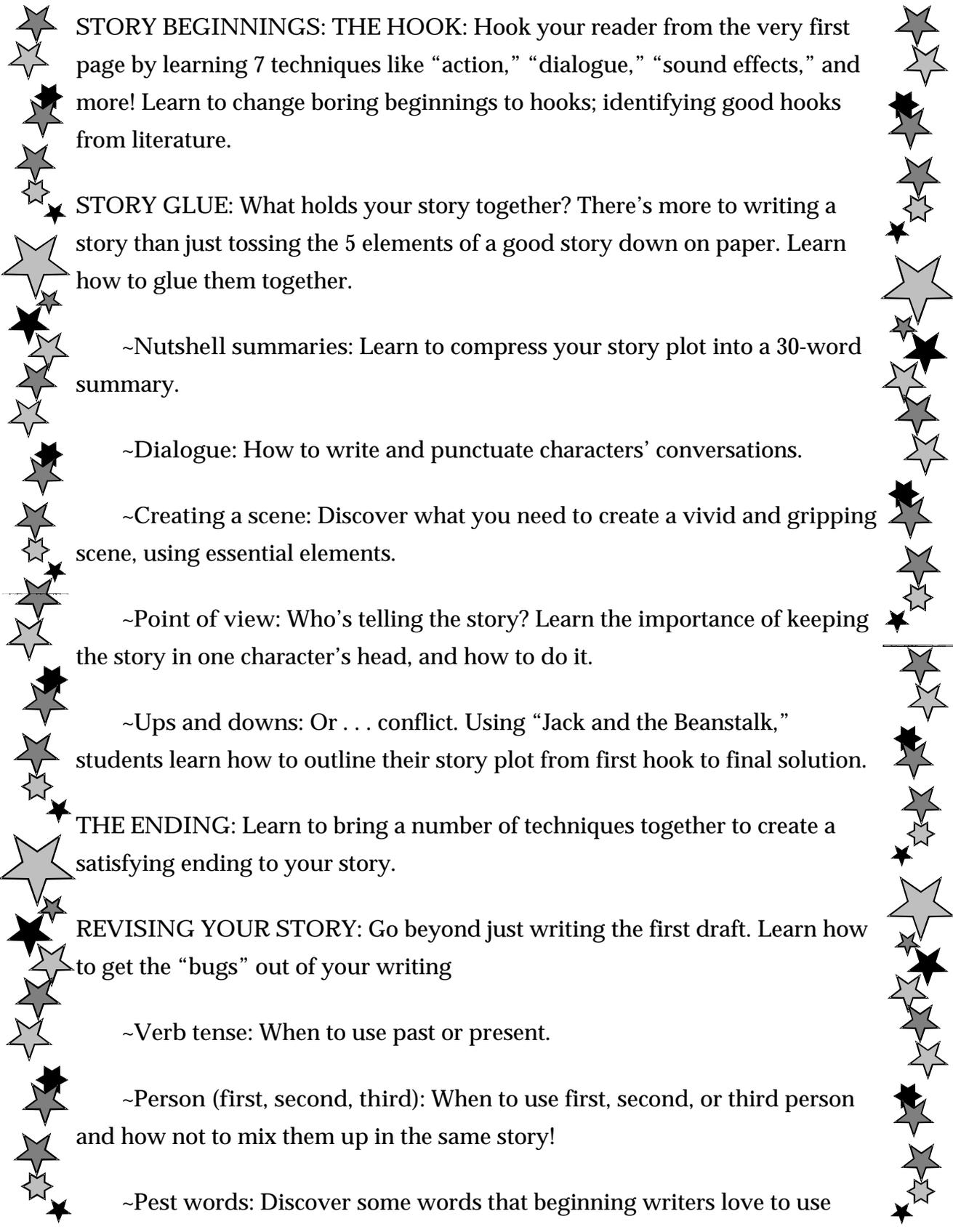
~Show-Don't-Tell feelings: The most important skill for an author! Learn how to change boring telling sentences like "Joe was mad" to vibrant "showing" sentences. Includes a "feelings" chart for easy reference.

SETTING AND DESCRIPTION: Learn how to use your imaginary "writing camera" to freeze KEY Characters, Settings, and Objects.

~Dead words: What they are and how to avoid their use.

~Writing cameras: When not to overuse your camera to create vivid descriptions but not too much!

~Sentence variety: How to keep sentences in your story from all sounding alike.



STORY BEGINNINGS: THE HOOK: Hook your reader from the very first page by learning 7 techniques like “action,” “dialogue,” “sound effects,” and more! Learn to change boring beginnings to hooks; identifying good hooks from literature.

STORY GLUE: What holds your story together? There’s more to writing a story than just tossing the 5 elements of a good story down on paper. Learn how to glue them together.

~Nutshell summaries: Learn to compress your story plot into a 30-word summary.

~Dialogue: How to write and punctuate characters’ conversations.

~Creating a scene: Discover what you need to create a vivid and gripping scene, using essential elements.

~Point of view: Who’s telling the story? Learn the importance of keeping the story in one character’s head, and how to do it.

~Ups and downs: Or . . . conflict. Using “Jack and the Beanstalk,” students learn how to outline their story plot from first hook to final solution.

THE ENDING: Learn to bring a number of techniques together to create a satisfying ending to your story.

REVISING YOUR STORY: Go beyond just writing the first draft. Learn how to get the “bugs” out of your writing

~Verb tense: When to use past or present.

~Person (first, second, third): When to use first, second, or third person and how not to mix them up in the same story!

~Pest words: Discover some words that beginning writers love to use

 over and over. Take your story to the next level by managing these “bugs.”

 **BLANK STORY PAGES:** Lots of bordered pages to write your stories. Blank pages are also sprinkled throughout the workbook for plenty of space to work on new skills.

 **FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS:** Suggestions on how to use the book: ideas for making a concept come alive, activities to reinforce skills, and hints to have some extra fun with writing.

 **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** a page with author information

