

*HOW TO*

STORY TIME

unleash your imagination

- *Think about the plot ...* Who are the main characters? Where are they, and what might happen next?
- *Add details ...* What are they wearing (and why)? Are there pets—or even unicorns—nearby?
- *Add a twist...* What unexpected thing could suddenly happen?
- *Think about senses ...* What might the characters hear? Smell? Touch... or shouldn't touch?!
- *Explore feelings ...* Are the characters anxious? Silly? How could those feelings change the story?
- *Build up from real life ...* Add a favorite place or a special memory!
- *Play with time ...* What would be different if the story were happening in the future? In the past?
- *What else could you bring to the story?* Add on your own ideas to the back of the bookmark!

Most importantly, there is no right or wrong way! Just unleash your imagination, and have FUN!



# Feeling stuck?

Close your eyes and point randomly or choose your favorites from the table!



Characters	A curious child	A friendly animal	A wise old person	A shy creature	An adventurous explorer
Location	A dark forest	A village	A garden	By the ocean	High up in the mountains
Problem	Something important is lost	A tiny cat needs help	A mystery needs solving	Someone is scared of something new	Two friends have a disagreement
Time period	Early in the morning	Late at night under the stars	On a stormy day	During a celebration	On the first day of a new season
Magical object	A glowing stone	A key that opens anything	A map that shows the way to a castle	A magical cloak	An invisible flute

## How to Use the Story Loop

Start at 1 and work your way around the circle. When you reach # 5, keep looping or end your story!

### 1. ONCE UPON A TIME...

Set up the tone! Who are the characters? Where are they? What are they doing or planning to do?

### 2. UH-OH!

Something happened... What shakes things up? Who is involved, and why?

### 3. TIME TO TRY ... SOMETHING!

What silly (or serious!) idea comes up? What happens next?

### 4. PHEW!

How is everyone feeling now? What are they going to do next?

### 5. WAIT, WHAT?!

Just when they thought it was over... What surprise is popping up?

READY TO WRAP UP?

NOT QUITE READY TO STOP?

Pass your story to a friend, family member, or keep on going!

**Our Story Loop**

Where will it take us this time?



Want extra fun? Roll dice throughout and add those numbers to your story (e.g., 3 magical hats, 0 dinosaurs, etc.).

