

Becoming an Author

As an author, I have lots of fun visiting primary schools and talking to children about writing. I always tell them the secret to writing a story is the same no matter what age you are or class you are in.

You just need a **beginning**, a **middle** and an **end** - I call it my skeleton!



Just imagine the...

beginning of your story is the head

the **middle** is the tummy

and the **end** is the toes.

To let you see what I mean I have set out an example below, it's from my picture book, *The Fairy in the Kettle*.

The Fairy in the Kettle **Skeleton** looked like this...



Beginning A fairy who loved living in her kettle

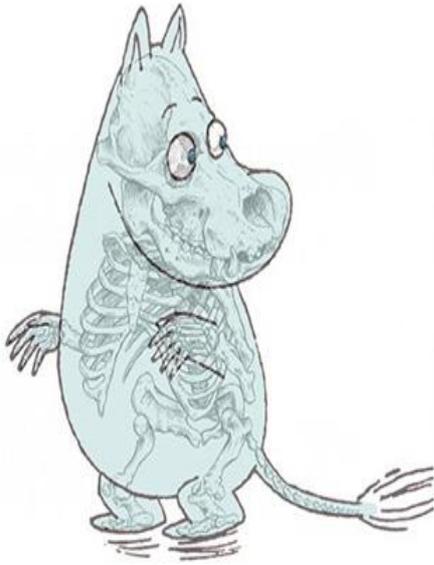
Middle Grumpy fairies who didn't like the noise the raindrops made when they landed on the kettle

End A storm comes along and the only place that the fairies will be safe is inside the kettle

From Pauline Tait, Multi Genre author of novels and children's picture books

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Once you have your ideas for a beginning, middle and end it's time for you to start writing.



I call the next step **beefing up** my skeleton!

Once you have written the **skeleton** of your story it's time to go back to the beginning and **beef it up**.

This means adding in as much **detail** as you can... think about where your story is taking place: What does it look like? What does it smell like?

Think about your characters: What do they look like? How do they act? Is it someone you know or someone you have made up in your head? How do they react when something unexpected happens?

Depending on your age remember to use your **finger spaces**, **capital letters**, **full stops**, **openers**, **WOW words**, **connectives** and **paragraphs**.

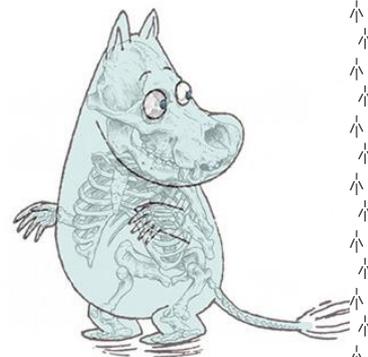
To let you see what I mean I have **beefed up** my **skeleton** example!

Beginning: Leona loved living in her kettle

She could still remember the struggle she and her three best friends, Tilly, Robbie and Toby had when they tried to fly the very heavy kettle back to their village.

Middle: The grumpy fairies - However to everyone else the raindrops landing on the outside of the kettle was the most annoying noise they had ever heard.

But Leona would just laugh because she loved when it rained. To Leona, listening to the sound of the raindrops landing on the outside of the kettle was like listening to music, and every shower of rain played a different tune.



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She would dance around inside her kettle creating new dance steps to each shower of rain. When the rain was fast and heavy, she would practice her quick steps and, when it was just a little light shower, she would practice her ballet.

End: A storm comes along and the only place that the fairies will be safe is inside the kettle.

She danced and twirled and danced and twirled and danced and twirled and crashed as every fairy in the village flew down the spout of her precious kettle one after the other.....The fairies were so relieved not to hear the howling wind that the noise of the rain hammering off the outside of the kettle was actually not so bad anymore, and the fairies began to join Leona in dancing to the sound of the raindrops.

Now, it's time to add in other scenes to make your amazing story flow and to help link it all together!

And FINALLY, all that's left to do is check through your story one more time. Check it flows and that your spelling is correct. This will really make your story **amazing!**

Remember those **WOW** words

- **Enormous** is better than **big**
- **Stinky** is a lot better than **smelly**
- **Thundering crash** is better than a **loud bang**

Depending on your age, remember to make sure you have used your **capital letters, finger spaces, full stops, openers, WOW words, connectives and paragraphs.**

Now... you're an author!

Moomin skeleton images courtesy of Pinterest

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