

# The Usborne Young Writers' Award 2009



## Six top writing tips from Sue Mongredien

Don't become bogged down with a lengthy introduction to your story – get into the action as quickly as you can

Think about what makes you laugh/feel sad/feel scared. Anything that stirs up emotions is great material for a story.

Be aware of how your characters are feeling at any point. Put yourself in their shoes – how would the situation make you feel?

Keep asking yourself, is this relevant to the story? Does it move the story along? Cut out all the waffly bits that don't add anything – they will slow down the pace, and might even bore your reader.



Throw in a few surprises or plot twists to keep your reader hooked – and if you're writing a longer story, or even a book, don't forget to end each chapter on an exciting cliffhanger.

Read your work out loud to yourself when you've finished your story. It's much easier to spot any mistakes that way.

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