



## Independent learning tasks: Creative writing homework project

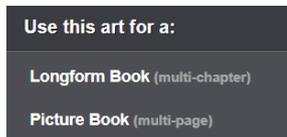
You're going to use Storybird to write a story and publish a book. You'll choose a set of images that show the characters and key moments in the story and create a story map to help you write either a picture book or a chapter story. Each week you'll do a new task to help you write and improve your story. When your story is finished we'll add it to our class library and give a prize to the best three picture books and chapter stories.

### Task 1: Mapping your story

1. Go to <https://storybird.com/accounts/login>.
2. Use the invitation that your teacher has sent you to sign into Storybird. It will look something like this:



3. Explore and choose pictures to illustrate the characters and key moments in your story. Go to the 'Create' page and search the artwork for the kind of character, scenes and events that you'd like to write about, for example: 'journey', 'space traveller', 'pink rabbit' ...!
4. Choose your first image and select 'Use this Art', then choose to write either a picture book or a longform (chapter) book.



5. Add pages to your book and select and arrange images to map your story. Write some key words on each page to describe the characters and the main events.
6. Add a draft title for your story – you'll be able to change this later.



## Save your work

When you've finished, make sure you save your work.

1. Select 'Save & Exit'.



2. Select 'My story isn't finished yet'.

**You're not quite finished!**  
Add or review story details:

My story isn't finished yet.  
Your story will only be visible to you. You can come back and work on it later.

**I'm finished. Publish my story:**

Privately  
You can share a link to your story with friends and family, but it won't be visible on Storybird.

Publicly  
All student stories are private. They may be automatically shared with your class, but not publicly visible to others. [Learn more.](#)

3. Select 'Go to Dashboard'.



## Task 2: Describing the main character

1. Look at the pictures you added to the pages of your story and identify your main character. This doesn't have to be on the first page.
2. Go to the page where your main character first appears. Look closely at the picture you have chosen and write about your character. For example:
  - the character's everyday activities, likes, dislikes, fears, hopes
  - a physical description of the character and location
  - a description of the character's personality
  - what the character was doing, looking forward to
  - how the character felt
  - the character's name.
3. Write about any other characters in your story in the same way.



### **Task 3: The opening scene**

You developed the characters in your story last week – read what you wrote and go to the first page of your story (the page after the title page). Look closely at the picture you chose and describe the opening scene. For example:

- a problem, decision or event
- what happened before the problem/decision/event
- how the problem/decision/event is connected to the main character
- any connections to other characters.

### **Task 4: The main events**

Read what you wrote about your characters and your opening scene and continue writing your story. Use the pictures you chose and the notes you made in Task 1 to help you. Try to include:

- actions and movement
- locations, sounds, smells, tastes
- feelings and thoughts about past, present and future events
- good and bad relationships
- problems and solutions.

### **Task 5: The ending**

Read through your story, decide what kind of ending you want and write it. For example:

- cliff-hanger – this leaves the reader wanting to know what happened next ...
- moral – a lesson that the reader or one of the characters learned about life
- happily ever after – the characters came to an agreement or found a solution
- tragic – everything ended badly!
- twist – something unexpected that changes the meaning of the whole story.

You might need to change some other parts of your story to make your ending fit.



### Task 6: Adding speech

Adding speech and conversations can bring your story to life. You can either add speech in the text like this:

Annie saw red. 'I'm not going!' she screamed at her mum.

Or you can add it on a separate line:

The twins looked round the corner.

'Why don't you go?' whispered Uma, feeling worried.

'I'm scared,' replied Hannah.

'But why?' asked Uma.

Go through your story and improve the conversations between your characters. Be careful with your punctuation!

### Task 7: Editing

Read through your story and check the language you have used. For example:

- Do your sentences make sense?
- Have you used linking words? e.g. first, then, next, after that, before
- Check your verbs (past, present, continuous, etc.).
- Have you used interesting adjectives and adverbs? e.g. mysterious, exciting, suddenly, fortunately, unfortunately
- Check your spellings – use a dictionary if you're not sure, e.g. <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/learner-english>
- Check that you are happy with your title.

### Save and publish your work

1. Select 'Save & Exit'.
2. Select 'I'm finished. Publish my story: Privately'.

I'm finished. Publish my story:

Privately  
You can share a link to your story with friends and family, but it won't be visible on Storybird.

Publicly  
All student stories are private. They may be automatically shared with your class, but not publicly visible to others. [Learn more.](#)

3. Select the correct assignment.

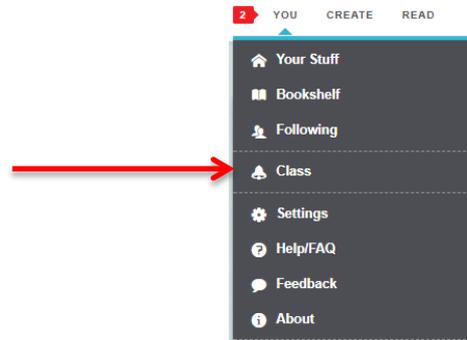
Assignment

4. Select 'Publish'.

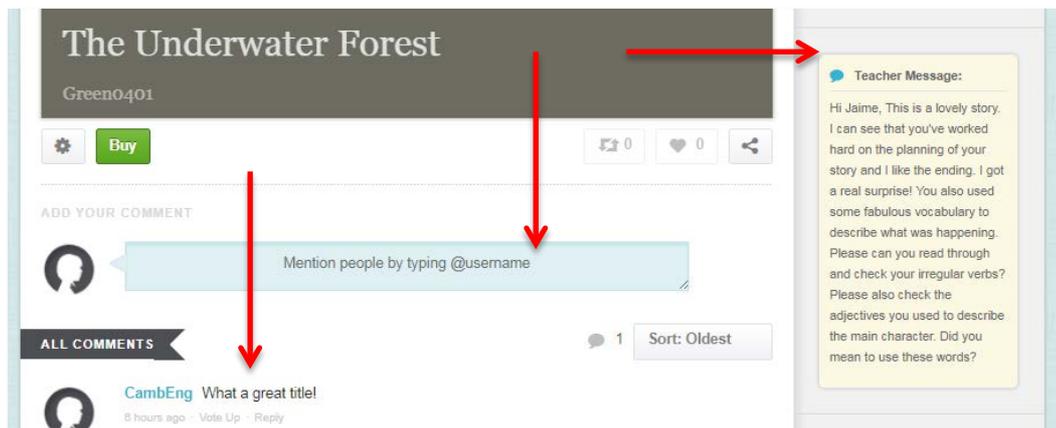


## Task 8: Review

1. Go to your class.



2. Review your own work and your teacher's messages. Comment on what you learned and what you enjoyed about the project.



3. Browse the stories that your classmates have written. Choose three stories to read and review.
4. Add your positive comments. For example, you could tell the writer:
  - how the story made you feel
  - the best part of the story
  - the best bit of writing
  - who you think would like this story
  - what you learned from reading this story.