Lesson 2: Build your Character

UNIT: Magical Objects

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

As a writer, things all around me give me ideas for stories—even just walking around my neighborhood. One time, I saw a lost toy, which gave me an idea for a story. Another time, I was taking a walk, and I saw this—that's a pizza in a tree. How did that pizza get up there? It's giving me lots of ideas for stories. Maybe someone was trying to feed the squirrels, or maybe someone wanted to invent pizza delivery by drone and one fell off.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What could be a story of how this pizza ended up in the tree?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but maybe someone ordered a pizza, and it got stolen by a seagull. No matter what you came up with, you probably thought of someone who did something with the pizza.

The people in stories are called characters. Characters create the excitement in a story because they do things, say things, and react to things. But characters are also so important because they can make a story feel real, even if it is fiction.

In the last lesson, you saw the box that my friend Zoe found in her room. She imagined that the items in the box were magical and wrote a story about the magical spoon that can make someone's voice really loud. Before she wrote her story, she thought about who the main character would be. She imagined Marvin—he's in the seventh grade. That's a great start to a character. But Zoe imagined even more; she thought about his personality, what he likes and dislikes, things that he wants, and fears. She wrote all her ideas down and made a quick sketch of her character. Then, when she wrote her story, she could include her details to make Marvin feel like a real person, even though he's fictional.

You are writing a story inspired by one of the other magical objects from Zoe's box. You already brainstormed some story ideas in the last lesson. Today, you'll develop the character in your story. You can use your imagination to think of lots of details about them so your character will feel like a real person in your story. Then, later on, you'll use your story ideas and character to make a plan for your story.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Get your Brainstorming worksheet. To review your story idea so far, read the idea that you drew a star next to.

STEP 3

Get your Character worksheet. Here's where you can plan the name of your character and write lots of details about them. If you need ideas, you can try answering some of the questions at the bottom of your worksheet.

Then if you want, you can draw a picture of your character. Your teacher will tell you how long you have to write your character ideas.

STEP 4

Now get your Story Plan worksheet.

All stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end, but different writers like to plan their stories in different ways. Some writers like to plan their story in a list, like this. Some writers plan their stories on a timeline, like this. And some writers like to make a story arc, like this.

Decide how you would like to plan your story and set up your Story Plan worksheet by drawing the type of plan you would like to use.

STEP 5

Now you can make a plan for how your story will go. You can use your ideas on your Brainstorming worksheet and your Character worksheet along the way.

Make sure the plan for your story has a beginning, middle, and an end. And remember, you can always make changes to your plan later on.

If you'd like to see how Zoe planned her story, we've put her story plan on the screen.

Your teacher will tell you how long you have to make a plan for your story.

WRAP UP

Fantastic job, writers! You planned your character including lots of details so they will feel like a real person in your story. You also have a complete plan for your story with a beginning, middle, and end.

In the story writing process, you're here.

In the next lesson, you'll draft your story, including all the details you planned today. I can't wait to read your magical stories!

Be sure to put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time.