

I AM A WRITER

Writing is a great outlet to express how you feel. You can encourage, entertain, and even excite people with your writing. Express yourself in a poem and remember that a poem doesn't always have to rhyme.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Recommended Ages: Grades K - 12

Estimated Time: 1 – 2 hours

Stuff you'll need: Pencil/pen, paper, computer (if applicable)

THE FUN PART

BADGE OR JOURNEY STEPS COMPLETED

Daisy Respect Myself & Others Petal

Juniors Scribe Steps 1, 2, & 5

Cadettes Screenwriter Steps 1 - 5

Seniors Novelist: Steps 2 - 5

1. Use your imagination and come up with a great idea for a story. Put pencil to paper and start writing your short story. You can even type on a computer with your parent/guardian's permission. Keep in mind that there are five essential elements of a story:
 - **Characters** – who the story is about. There should be an introduction and detailed descriptions of a character's physical attributes and personality. There should be a main character.
 - **Setting** – this is the location of the action. There should be a description of the environment or surroundings of the story with such detail that a reader feels that they can picture the scene.
 - **Plot** – this is the actual story around the book is based. A plot should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
 - **Conflict** – every story has a conflict to solve. The plot is centered on the conflict and the different ways the characters can solve the problem.
 - **Resolution** – the solution to the problem is the way the action is resolved. There can be a compromise between two fighting characters. Make sure that the resolution fits the rest of the story and that all conflicts are resolved.
2. Develop your story by getting to know your characters, understanding how you want to develop your plot, and how you will resolve the conflict. How long do you want your short story? For Daisies and Brownies, try writing 6 pages, Juniors try 8-10 pages, Cadettes shoot for 12-14 pages, Seniors and Ambassadors knock it out of the park by writing 20+ pages.
3. Once you have completed your book, go back and start editing. This means reviewing punctuation and grammar or even switching things around to make the story flow together. Once you make a change, remember to reread so that it makes sense. Be sure to also have someone else act as your editor and help you with the editing process.
4. Now that you have created a classic short story, share it with family and friends! Have them complete a book report and give you feedback. If the writing bug has bitten you, keep your short stories going by creating a series.
5. Way to go! You did it! Share on social media with your caregiver's permission. Use the hashtag #GSGIDIY

