

JUNIOR HISTORIANS

Writing Short Stories

In *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*, Jason Reynolds uses short stories to tell us about the adventures a group of kids experience on a seemingly average afternoon. Writing stories allows you to be creative and reimagine the world around you. Here we share a few resources about writing short stories for those of you who want to write more.

Words of Wisdom

1. **Write often!** Keep a journal or notebook handy – if inspiration strikes, you’ll be able to write it down. It will also help you to get comfortable writing your thoughts on paper.
2. **Read often!** Inspiration can come from all kinds of books. The more you read, the more you can learn how to tell your own stories, write characters, etc.
3. **Write like your favorite author.** Is there a storyteller you just love? Try writing your story in their voice.

Prompts

- Your character is on a field trip at the local museum when suddenly an exhibit comes to life.
- You’re walking home from school one day and someone drops down from the sky in a parachute! Who are they and what do they want?
- Your character just started at a new school, but the school isn’t exactly what it seems...
- You move to a new town. Who lives on your new block?
- You discover an old diary two friends shared. What does it say?
- You wake up as a(n) ____ (animal). What do you see? Where do you go?

Writing Resources

For Kids:

- [“Am I Too Young to Write?": 6 Tips for Young Writers](#)
- [Tips for Young Writers](#)

For Parents:

- [Encouraging a Young Writer](#)
- [6 Ways to Encourage Young Writers](#)
- [Prompt Your Child to Be a Better Writer](#)

