

FIRST COMES THE IDEA

The idea for a story shouldn't be **our** problem. It should be somebody **else's**. Think of a character that seems interesting or a problem that somebody needs to solve. Try putting them together.

Here are three examples based on real stories

- 1 Wooden puppet, sometimes naughty, wants to become a real boy. A puppet who can be naughty sounds interesting. And becoming a real boy would be a problem for sure. (Pinocchio)
 - 2 Baby pig, born the runt of the litter, fears for his life. A runt pig could have all sorts of adventures. But if someone is out to kill him, he certainly has a problem. (Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*)
 - 3 Hero from another planet, disguised as a mild-mannered reporter, never gets the girl. Who wouldn't want to write about a superhero from space? But the poor guy never gets the girl of his dreams to notice him. What a problem. (Superman)
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Try this:

- 1 Start a list in your journal called STORY IDEAS.
 - 2 Here are five suggestions to help you get you started:
 - ◆ Old dog in animal shelter fears he's too ugly to be adopted.
 - ◆ New girl in class says that she can do something she can't.
 - ◆ Boy hurt in accident must learn to live without walking.
 - ◆ Rich boy lost in snowstorm spends night with homeless family.
 - ◆ Littlest frog in pond has to save bigger frogs.
 - 3 See if you can add a few ideas of your own to the list.
 - 4 You now have several ideas to choose from. What are you waiting on?
It's time to start a story!
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