

More Tips on Creating and Telling Great Stories

1. **Start with a dramatic opening.** This will get the attention of your audience and keep them sitting on the edge of their seats to find out what happens next.
2. **Have your story unfold according to events.** There's an old saying in the storytelling world—show, don't tell. What that means is it's better, for example, rather than just saying, "he was really scared," to describe a character who is hiding from a person who wants to kill him harm, show us he's scared by describing the perspiration dripping down the character's forehead and his heart beating so loud that it sounded like the soft thud of an Indian drum.
3. **Keep plot details simple and easy to remember.** You only have couple minutes to tell your story, so get to the most important things and not wander off into a lengthy description of the back story—the events that led up to the problem, or the history of the character as a child—or getting involved in a subplot that isn't essential to the story.
4. **Characters are best revealed through their actions.** Instead of saying, for example, "The plumber was a mean person," show us how he is mean. For example, "As the plumber was walking by the dog, he poured his milk shake over the dog's head and just laughed as he watched the dog go running off."
5. **All stories are about a character overcoming a problem or obstacle.** The audience wants to see how the character succeeds; or, if the character fails, as in the case of a tragedy, we want to at least feel that the character deserved what he got in the end, even if it's not a happy ending. An important aspect of any character struggling with his problem is complications. Don't just have the character solve his problem. Have the solving of that problem lead to other unforeseen problems. In that way, when he does finally resolve all of the obstacles before him, the audience will be more engaged, and more satisfied!
6. If it's helpful, **imagine that you are projecting the image like a film in your imagination as you tell it.** Your job is to just see the story unfold in your mind's eye, and describe to your audience what you see.
7. Have fun!