



What Makes a Good Story Great?

These key elements can help you write more successful stories and keep your readers engaged and satisfied. Use these tips to move, inspire and fill your readers with wonder. Stories are better when they have:

1. **An immersive setting** that is detailed but changes over time as needed.
2. **Memorable characters** that have goals, strengths, flaws and personality.
3. **A great beginning** that introduces the characters and plot but makes the reader want to know more.
4. **A compelling plot** that drives the story. The plot is the result of choices a character makes or actions they take that cause events to happen next.
5. **Dramatic content** like mystery, tension, surprise and/or wonder.
6. **Conflict** such as one or more of the following (usually one main conflict):
 - Character vs. Character: When two characters have opposing wants, needs, personalities, etc.
 - Character vs. Self: An internal opposition of morals, choices and/or mental health struggles.
 - Character vs. Society: An external conflict to right a wrong, find freedom, justice, happiness, love, etc.
 - Character vs. Nature: This can include weather, wilderness, natural disasters, etc.
 - Character vs. Supernatural: Battles with ghosts, monsters, spirits, etc.
 - Character vs. Technology: When a character is pitted against AI or other technology.
7. **Relevant dialogue** that keeps the story flowing and is interesting to the reader. Make sure dialogue is used to advance the story, not just to have a conversation.
8. **Effective writing** where everything you include is important for the tips above. Keep your story focused.
9. **A good flow** when read aloud. Read it to yourself out loud to see if the words sound right.
10. **A satisfying ending** that resolves your main conflict.

Most importantly, edit, edit, and edit again! Check spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc. Make sure the story makes sense to others reading it (since they don't know everything you know about your characters or plot). Have others read and give feedback on your story. Have fun and keep writing!