



## WRITING TIPS FOR SCARY STORY

You are the builder of the story, so have a plan.

### 1. Beginning

- A. Catch reader's attention
- B. Begin the conflict

### 2. Middle

- A. Describe the events
- B. Build the tension, suspense, and action
  - a. Put scary ideas in reader's head
  - b. Use dialogue - Character's talking
  - c. Be descriptive - See below ↓

### 3. End

- A. Resolve the suspense
- B. Whatever happens at the end is the result of the events in the middle.
  - a. Sometimes it answers or resolves the tension; sometimes it leaves the reader with a pounding heart.

## ADDITIONAL HINTS FOR GOOD WRITING:

### 1. Show, Don't Tell.

#### Tell

He was sloppy.

She was glad

#### Show

He dragged his sleeve through the spaghetti sauce.

When she saw me, she ran, arms open, to give me a wonderful bear-hug

to see me.       hello.

I was clumsy.    I stumbled into the hall.

John had a  
cold.

John coughed until his ribs ached. He wiped his sore, scabbed nose for what seemed the millionth time as he reached for another cough drop.

**2. Description** - Use the five senses. Before you write, add some scary words to this list.

**See** - Use color - red, blue; bright

**Touch** - hard, cold, wet, rough

**Smell** - Cinnamon, rose, musky, rank

**Sound** - crunch, snap, whistle

**Taste** - bitter, sweet, sour

**3. Verbs are important.** They actually help set the tone and are quite descriptive in a short story

Example: Bland - Jane said. More descriptive - Jane screamed.

**4. Put ideas in reader's head - foreshadow.**

"It was Christmas eve, when Santa Claus delivers gifts to children around the world in a bell decked sleigh. .... John had just laid his head on his pillow when he heard a distant jingle of bells. (Christmas Eve, Santa Claus and bell help the reader "know" what the distant jingle of bells is.)

**5. Neatness, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. are all-important and absolutely necessary, but remember to tell a good story, too. Oh, and **MAKE IT SCARY!****