

Lesson 4: Writing and Reading the Story

AN ENGAGING PREMISE

Choose one of the following premises or create your own. Practice transforming the premise into a three-act story. Be economical and use no more than 250 words.

- A bank teller's day is ruined when a robber comes in and demands that she open the vault.
- It's August in Arizona and the air conditioner broke at Emilio's house.
- Elena thinks that she can fly. She's right.
- I learn to play a musical instrument overnight.
- We need to buy a new house because ours is haunted.
- Two brothers are in a hurry because they believe that the sun is going to burn out tomorrow.
- An elderly couple decides to run a marathon for charity. It doesn't go well.
- I feel like eating out, but my wife feels like making dinner.
- Sam's mother-in-law cries every time she sees him.
- Tim the firefighter moves to Argentina and finds himself through learning to dance tango.
- Amelia's plan to make a million dollars seems like a good idea, but it goes horribly wrong.
- A waiter receives a huge tip one night and decides to quit his job to pursue his passion.
- A young woman decides to travel the world and sees something she shouldn't have seen.
- Oscar is afraid of almost everything on earth. That's why he decided to be an astronaut.
- Hector goes to the same café every day because he thinks the barista is cute. After 365 consecutive days, she agrees to go on a date with him. Hilarity ensues.

Premise

ACT I

Present your main character and give them a basic description. Introduce a problem that your character must face and overcome.

ACT II

Your character must face some trials to solve her problem. This is where the action happens, and it should build toward a moral choice that will determine the future of the main character. Act II often involves the character changing physical locations.

ACT III

The climax of the story happens here. Put a bow on your story in the following action. Since this story is constrained to 250 words, try to finish Act III in 2-3 sentences.
