

## Brainstorming Your Story

Jotting down ideas *before* writing can help you build strong characters, or help you decide what direction you want your story to take. Try answering the questions below to get your imagination flowing. Use the answers as an outline to build your story.

### 1. Characters

Who is the main character (also called a **protagonist**)? Does he/she have a sidekick? List three ideas for main characters and possible friends they might have. Remember your characters don't have to be human!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### 2. Conflict

What is the conflict of the story? Who is the bad guy (also called an **antagonist**)? Every main character needs someone or something to struggle against—that's what makes the story! List three ideas for villains or some kind of conflict for your main character.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### 3. Setting

Where does your story happen? Is it the beach, a mountain, or somewhere in space? List three ideas for places your story can take place.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**4. Climax**

What is the most exciting part of your story? When will your main character be in the most danger, or when does he/she face the biggest problem? This is the moment when it feels like all is lost, like the bad guy will win—but just at the last minute...the heroine pulls it off. List three ideas for the biggest, scariest, most exciting moment of your story.

1.

2.

3.

**5. Problem Solve**

How does your main character pull it off at the last minute? How does he/she solve the problem you gave them in #4 and save the day? List three ways your main character can defeat the bad guy.

1.

2.

3.