

ghostwriter

activity guide

When a ghost haunts a neighborhood bookstore and starts releasing fictional characters into the real world, four kids must team up to solve an exciting mystery surrounding the ghost's unfinished business.

Now kids can go on a reading and writing adventure alongside the Ghostwriter Gang! The activities in this interactive journal provide everything kids will need to write their very own original story!

[Watch Ghostwriter on Apple TV+](#) to take the adventure to the next level.



Emmy Award Winner:
Outstanding Children's Programming



Parent's Choice Gold
Award Winner





How to Watch

Watch exclusively on the Apple TV app with an Apple TV+ subscription. Find the Apple TV app everywhere from Apple devices to smart TVs, or watch online at tv.apple.com.



How to Read Along

Search "Ghostwriter" within the Apple Books app or click the covers below to download exclusive versions of these titles.



Everyone Can Create

Inspire kids to learn new skills and creative ways to communicate their ideas through music, drawing, video, and photography on iPad with Everyone Can Create project guides. Visit Apple Books to get the Everyone Can Create project guides apple.co/everyonecancreate

How to Use the Guide

The Ghostwriter Activity Guide was created as a PDF to make it easy for kids to interact any way they like!

iPad & Apple Pencil

Download the PDF and import it into the Notes app. Then use the Apple Pencil or your finger to complete activities!

Paper & Pencil

Print the whole journal (starting on the next page) to complete the activities in pencil. Or print individual activities from pages marked with the "Printer-Friendly" icon below.

Look Out for These Special Symbols

Throughout the guide, we'll note where kids might need extra supplies*, devices or a little help from a grown-up.



Printer-Friendly Activity



iPad/Apple Pencil Activity

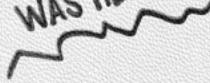


Grown-up Help Needed

* Additional supplies required for activities on pages 3, 7, 15, and 19

DONNA'S JOURNAL

GHOSTWRITER
WAS HERE



IF YOU CAN READ THIS
YOU'RE ONE OF US

You can see that, right?

The message in the OJ? Good. We need your help!

Wait, sorry. Where are my manners? I should probably introduce myself before getting you mixed up in a ghost's unfinished business. (Oh yeah, ghosts are totally real—more on that later.)

Hi! Nice to meet you. On paper, anyway.

I'm **DONNA PALMER-MORENO** and I was just a normal, very fashionable middle schooler until some spilled juice turned my world upside down.

Now, I'm solving a secret mystery for a ghost who communicates through written messages from the beyond...



A GHOSTWRITER

Luckily, I'm not the only one on the case...

Allow me to introduce the Ghostwriter Gang:



RUBEN REYNA

The new kid at school and the reason this whole thing started. His grandpa owns my favorite bookstore ever, Village Books. The ghost and the store are totally linked, we just aren't sure quite how... yet.

CHEVON REDMOND

If the honor roll had an honor roll, Chevon would be at the top. A brainiac who practically lives at the bookstore, Chevon is a research pro who's always quick to find the next clue.



CURTIS PALMER-MORENO

Ugh. My older brother. Don't get me wrong, he's great, but you know how brothers can be. Curtis is more baller than bookworm, but he brings his competitive spirit from the basketball court to the case.

Oh! Almost forgot. The specter of the hour...

GHOSTWRITER

She (or he?) is a spirit from beyond with a knack for words and unfinished business.

But who is Ghostwriter? Good question.

Watch and read along to find out.



GET IN WITH THE GHOST

Messages about mysteries are best kept covert, that's why Ghostwriter communicates through written words only we can see.

To make things extra mysterious, Ghostwriter never tells us exactly what they mean. We have to decipher the clue and look for the hidden meaning within the words.

Got a lemon lying around? If so, you can send your own secret correspondence, just like Ghostwriter!



TOP SECRET TIP

Using similes, metaphors (and emojis!) can help you get your message across while keeping it super secretive.

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two things by using the words like or as.

For instance, "White as a ghost!"

A metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike, but do have something in common. For example, "Life with Ghostwriter is a total rollercoaster!"

And emojis are... jk! You know that one! ;)

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1/2 Lemon
- Water
- A Cotton Swab
- Paper
- Small Bowl
- Spoon



(Always ask for a grown-up's help before using a knife!)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Squeeze the lemon juice into a small bowl and add a few drops of water, stir with a spoon.
2. Dip your cotton swab into the lemon juice/water mixture and write your message on the paper.
3. Once the 'invisible ink' is dry, hold it over a warm lamp or light source to make your message appear. (Don't forget to get a grown-up's help when handling something hot!)

I just had to know how this worked!
So I asked the smartest person I know...

CHEVON'S SCIENCE-Y EXPLANATION



When lemon juice is heated, it creates a chemical reaction that turns the juice brown. Diluting lemon juice with the water makes it hard to read on its own, but when you heat it, your message will be revealed!



WHEN YOUR BFF IS FROM A BOOK...

So, one thing I should clue you in on. Ghostwriter has this very cool, sometimes weird, but mostly cool superpower. The ghost can let book characters OUT of their books. Literally.

You know Alice's Adventures in Wonderland? I've met Alice. The Alice. IRL. (She's got fantastic taste in dresses, btw.)

I learned pretty quick that if you want to help the ghost (and keep lovable characters from wreaking havoc on your life) you should read the books the characters come from.

Don't worry, they're all page-turners. So start turning those pages!



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

by Lewis Carroll, adapted by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

This book's got it all... tea parties, a Mad Hatter and a cute cuddly rabbit. I couldn't put it down!

Read with Ghost in Wonderland (Episodes 1 + 2)



THE JUNGLE BOOK

by Rudyard Kipling, adapted by Karuna Riazi
If you like talking cats (who am I kidding, everyone likes talking cats) get lost in The Jungle Book.

Read with The Jungle Ghost (Episodes 3 + 4)



TRINITY

by DJ MacHale

Need a little adventure? Check out Trinity. It's a wild, wild read. Trust me.

Read with Wild, Wild Ghost (Episodes 5-7)



FRANKENSTEIN

by Mary Shelley, adapted by Anna Meriano

Pro Tip: Fire up your night light if you read this one before bed.

Read with Franken-Ghost (Episodes 11-13)



PS: Grown-ups can purchase these titles on Apple Books! Just open up the app and search "Ghostwriter" to check them out!



GHOST IN WONDERLAND

Things got pretty topsy turvy when Alice and her friends showed up at school, but somehow we managed to keep our heads.

Through our adventures with Alice, we learned the best book characters are so colorful and interesting, they practically LEAP off the page.

MAD HATTERS KNOW HOW TO (TEA) PARTY!



The Mad Hatter threw a wild tea party at school that got us in major trouble. At first I was totally annoyed, but it's hard to stay mad at someone so... well, mad!

I wanted to document everything about our fabulous, fictional host, but I'm running short on descriptive words. Can you help me?

Grab a friend, sibling or grown-up and ask them to name a word or phrase that matches the description below the blank WITHOUT showing them the story. For example, you would say:

"Give me a color..."

"Give me an animal..."

"Give me an adjective..."

Write the words they give you in the corresponding blanks on the next page to complete the story. Don't worry if the answers are weird or random - that'll make for a perfectly topsy turvy tale.

Read the resulting silly story aloud together, then do it all over again with different words!

After all, if the Mad Hatter taught us anything, it's that sometimes things that don't make sense make the most sense of all!



Ruben, Curtis, Chevon and I chased the _____
COLOR
rabbit down the hall, but when we rounded the corner
into the theater, the _____
ANIMAL
was gone!

Instead, we found a/an _____
ADJECTIVE
table that was _____
NUMBER
times longer than any of the tables in the cafeteria. The Mad Hatter sat on one end, singing _____
SONG TITLE
at the top of his lungs. _____
COLOR
teacups and _____
ADJECTIVE
cakes filled every inch of the table.

The Mad Hatter was the _____
ADJECTIVE ENDING IN -EST
party host I'd ever seen! He spoke in riddles and rhymes, chattering on about _____
PLURAL NOUN

He offered each of us a cake. Curtis bit into his first, then spit it out! "EW! This cake tastes like _____
PLURAL NOUN
," he said.

The Mad Hatter wasn't offended. "All the cakes here taste like _____
PLURAL NOUN
!" he exclaimed. "Yum!"

It was awkward, so I changed the subject. "Have you seen a _____
COLOR
rabbit?" I asked.

"I see all sorts of hares," replied The Hatter. "In fact, there are _____
NUMBER
hairs right here under my _____
ADJECTIVE
hat!"

"Not that kind of hare." sighed Chevon.

Ruben threw his hands up, "Come on guys! We have to help the ghost. We can't just spend all day _____
VERB ENDING IN -ING
at a tea party.

The Mad Hatter smiled a wide smile and tipped his _____
ADJECTIVE
hat.

"Don't forget to take a few _____
PLURAL NOUN
with you. In case you get _____
ADJECTIVE
.." he said.





CUPCAKE BREAK



If you ask me, baking and reading go together like cupcakes and icing!

I'm so impatient while waiting for sweet treats to come out of the oven, but reading a chapter in a book always makes the time go faster.

When Alice and I ate the cake that made us super tiny, I was feeling impatient then, too! On the bright side, Alice and I got to know each other while we waited for the gang to come help us out.



Alice told me about her likes and dislikes, her favorite garden and even her sister! One of the best parts of starting a new book is getting to know the WHO of the story - the fascinating character you'll follow through the pages.

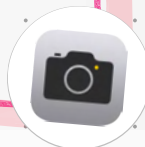
I learned Alice doesn't care for croquet, but she **LOVES** sweets. She even shared her favorite cupcake recipe with me. Of course, I had to keep it here in my journal! Don't they sound delicious?

FROM BATTER TO CUPCAKE IN RECORD TIME!

Grown-ups, you can help your young baker create a timelapse video of your baking adventure! It's easy:

1. Tap the camera icon on your device
2. Select **TIMELAPSE** mode.
3. Set your device up on the counter and hit the **RED RECORD BUTTON!**

Now you can share a speedy version of your cupcake creation with friends and family!



DISCOMBOBULATED BROWNIE BOTTOM ICE CREAM CUPCAKES

Is it cake? Is it ice cream? It's both. And it's neither. A curious mix of two desserts makes for a deliciously topsy turvy treat.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 24 Foil Cupcake Liners
- 1 Box Brownie Mix + Necessary Ingredients
- 1/2 Gallon of Your Favorite Ice Cream
- Toppings! Toppings! Toppings!



(Be sure to ask a grown-up for help! My dad and I love baking together.)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make the brownie batter according to package directions. Fill two cupcake pans with foil liners and scoop 1 tbsp of batter into each.
2. Bake your brownie bottoms at 350° for 6-8 minutes.
3. Let the bottoms cool to room temperature, then pop them in the freezer for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, put the ice cream in the fridge to soften.
4. When you're ready to assemble, remove the cupcake pan from the freezer and the ice cream from the fridge. Don't pop the cupcakes out of the pan yet!
5. Place a **BIG** scoop of ice cream into each cupcake so it fills the liner. Then, put your cupcakes back in the freezer for 45 minutes.
6. Once your cupcakes are nice and chilly, take them out of the freezer, top them with your favorite sweets and **EAT UP!**

"You're entirely bonkers, but let me tell you a secret... all the best people are." -Alice

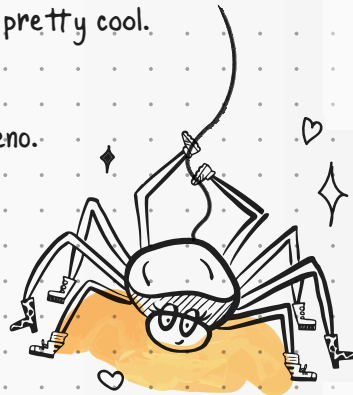
A talking caterpillar, a power-hungry queen, a chronically late rabbit, and a totally mad hatter - Wonderland has the best characters.

While reading, I kept imagining what kind of character I'd add to the mix, so I made one up! And I must say, she's pretty cool.

SAPPHIRE THE SPIDER

Created by yours truly, Donna Palmer-Moreno.

Sapphire is creative, stylish, and impatient. She has 8 legs, and older brother named Spellman and an adorable shoe collection! (She gets to wear 4 pairs of shoes at a time, lucky!) Sapphire loves to design and sew clothes. Good thing she's got amazing iridescent thread built right into her body!



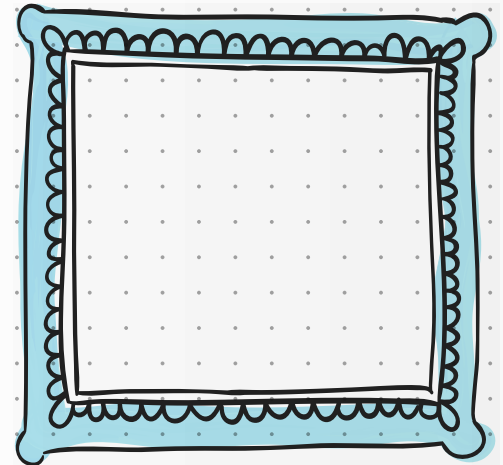
...and interesting **physical traits**. Height? Hair color? Eye color? Fur color? Do they have a tail? Big ears? A great smile?

Well-written characters have **likes, dislikes + emotional traits**, too... Your character could be curious like Alice or anxious like the Rabbit. They might love garlic bread but hate garlic!

...and **relationships** with other characters! Who are the important people (or animals or magical rabbits!) in your characters' life? Who will they interact with in their story?

A DOODLE IS WORTH 500 WORDS

If a picture's worth 1000 words, a doodle is worth at least 500. Draw your character in the frame! Use the Apple Pencil + Notebook or print this page to use your favorite markers or pens!



Now, create your own fantastical character!

Every good character needs a great name...

HELLO!

MY NAME IS:

A large, empty rectangular box for writing a name.



MEMOJI YOUR CHARACTER!



Grown-ups, help your young writer build and animate their character using MeMoji on iPhone + iPad. Just open messages, tap the MeMoji icon and the plus sign.



THE JUNGLE GHOST

I never understood why they call my city a concrete jungle, until Mowgli was let loose in my world.

Seeing my city through Mowgli's eyes made me realize how much a setting can affect a character's story.



SPINOZA SEARCH PARTY

Ruben's grandpa was super stressed when his favorite cat, Spinoza, went missing.

Maybe you can help us find her?

I ♥ MY CITY!

I love living in a city. The buildings, the lights, the people. If I had to use three words to describe it, I'd choose: Energetic, Loud and Exciting!

What's your hometown like? Is it a big city? A small town? What are three words you'd use to describe it?

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Sewing, reading and (now) mystery solving are my top three favorite things to do. But sometimes, I just need to get outside.

Even though I'm in a city, I spot all sorts of awesome plants and wildlife when I go on walks with Rocco.



On our last walk, I wrote down some of the cool things I saw along the way and I realized I was describing the setting of my life story!

If I want to be a great writer (and detective), I need to be really good at observation. **Observation** means seeing or taking notice of something or gathering information about things.

All that observation will come in handy when I describe **WHERE** my story takes place - whether it's a beautiful garden or a big city!

Luckily, it's fun and easy to observe! You can try it out right where you are!

Hit the streets of your neighborhood (with a grown up, of course!) and really observe what you see and hear. If you're like me, you'll want to document everything about the wild and wonderful world you live in. As you walk, have a grown-up help you capture the whole experience!



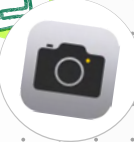
SNAP WHAT YOU SEE



Use your iPhone or iPad to snap pictures of the interesting things you see as you walk.

Bonus points if you can spot examples of IRL alliteration! Alliteration is when two connected words start with the same letter or sound. Do you see a curious cat? How about a broken bicycle?

SHAPES OF THE STREET



You can use Mark Up in the Photos App to trace shapes in the pics you take! What

shapes are most common in your neighborhood? I live around a lot of tall buildings, so my world is all rectangles.

1. Open photo in Photos App
2. Tap Edit, then (...) then (pen icon)
3. Tap one of the circles to choose your color (My fave is orange!)
4. Outline the shapes you see in your photo

SOUNDS ARE ALL AROUND



Don't just look with your eyes! Hear with your ears. Use the Voice Memo app to record 1 minute of sounds from your world. Later, listen to the recording and write down what you hear.



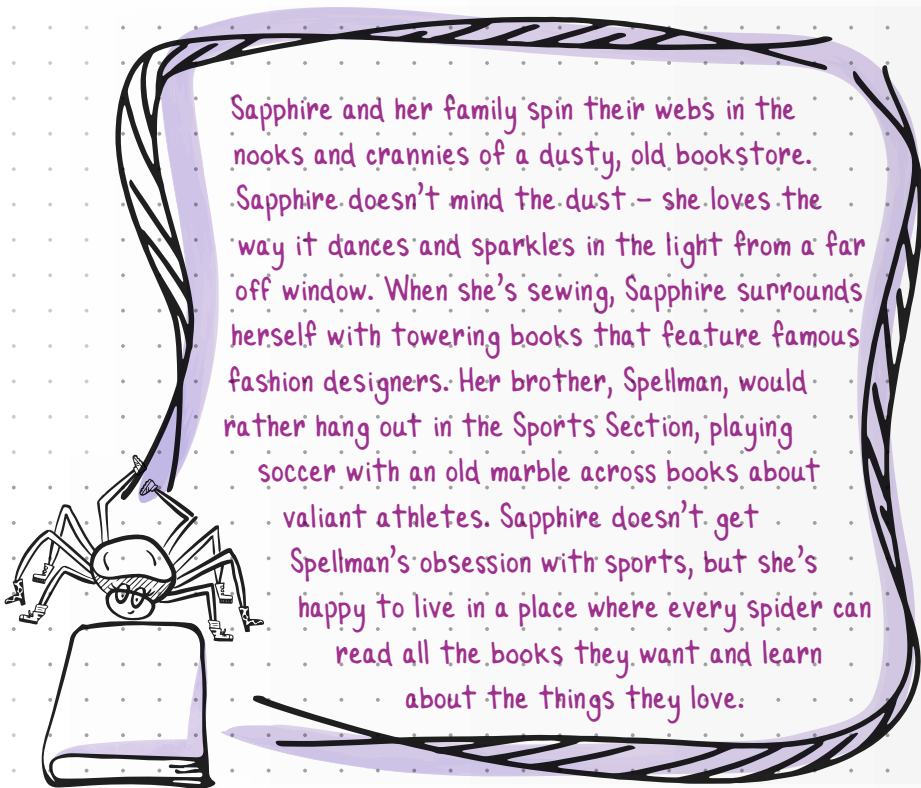
"I WANT TO BE PART OF THE JUNGLE." —Mowgli

Reading can transport you anywhere, from a deep dark jungle to a totally different galaxy. And lately, I've realized writing takes you places, too.

In fact, writing can take you places that only exist inside your own imagination!

When I'm writing, I dream up whole worlds for my characters to explore. I close my eyes and imagine what it's like to actually be there. Then, I write down everything I observed.

Remember Sapphire? Here's the setting I imagined for her story!



Sapphire and her family spin their webs in the nooks and crannies of a dusty, old bookstore. Sapphire doesn't mind the dust — she loves the way it dances and sparkles in the light from a far off window. When she's sewing, Sapphire surrounds herself with towering books that feature famous fashion designers. Her brother, Spellman, would rather hang out in the Sports Section, playing soccer with an old marble across books about valiant athletes. Sapphire doesn't get Spellman's obsession with sports, but she's happy to live in a place where every spider can read all the books they want and learn about the things they love.

Now you try. Think of the character you created before, where does their story take place?

Close your eyes and imagine your setting...



Where are you? Are you inside or outside? Are you on planet Earth or somewhere else entirely?

How does it feel? Is it hot or cold? Sunny, cloudy, or raining?

What do you hear? People? Cars? Animals? Music?

Great stories (and great clues!) are always in the details. Add lots of details to make your setting even more interesting.

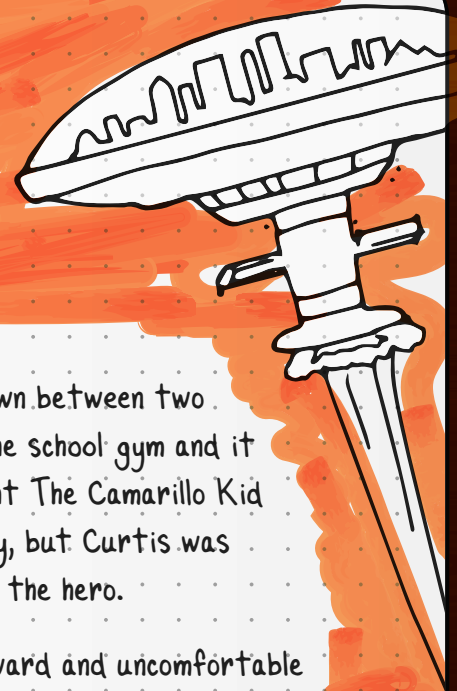
WILD, WILD GHOST



We watched a duel go down between two smooth-talking cowboys in the school gym and it was... stressful! Ruben thought The Camarillo Kid was the good guy in Trinity, but Curtis was convinced Hitch was the hero.

In real life, conflict can be awkward and uncomfortable (I hate when Curtis and Ruben argue!) but in a story, it's really important.

Conflict is often why a story starts! Without conflict, most stories would be, well... doggone boring.



OOOH, SPARKLY...

Silver and gold are cool and all, but the big ole sparkly Tell Diamond is my favorite part of the trinity!



Since I can't go mining like the cowboys on Tensor-4, I figured out a way to make my very own diamond bookmark. It's the chicest way to save your place while reading!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- (1) 6" x 6" Sheet of Paper (Metallic paper, colorful construction paper or even plain white paper works great!)
- Scissors (Always ask for a grown-up's help!)
- Markers, glitter and other decorations! (Have fun with it! Give your diamond bookmark that personalized touch.)

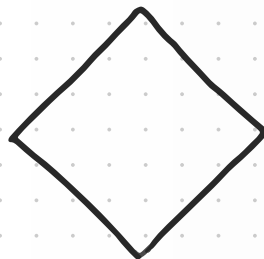
BEDAZZLE YOUR BOOK

When I use my diamond bookmark, it reminds me to look out for the the 'plot trinity' (exposition, conflict, resolution) in whatever story I'm reading.

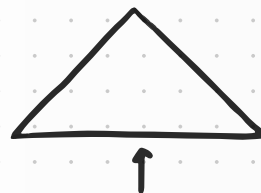
What are the top 3 books on your reading wishlist?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

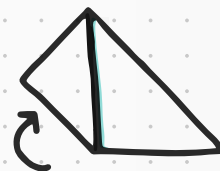
HOW TO FOLD YOUR DIAMOND BOOKMARK



1. Start with a square piece of paper. Turn it to look like a diamond.



2. Fold the bottom corner up to meet the top corner.



3. Fold the left corner up.



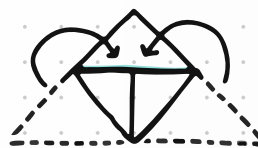
4. Then the right corner. Now you've got a smaller diamond!



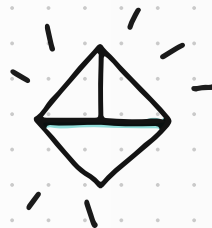
5. Unfold the corners.



6. Fold the top layer of the top corner down to meet the bottom edge.



7. Tuck the left and right corners under the folded down flap.



8. There you have it! Place the bookmark on the corner of your page to save your place!



Don't forget to decorate! (I added some cute eyes to mine!)

"Hoo-wee! That was a little bit more excitement than I was hoping for!" -Dale

I totally relate to Dale. I used to wish my life was more exciting. Then, Ghostwriter showed up and boy did I get my wish.

Stories need excitement to keep the reader reading. Without a plot, the story can't move forward! The plot is WHY a good story keeps us hooked. Remembering the plot trinity (exposition, conflict, resolution) helps me stay on track as I create a plot for my own stories.

EXPOSITION

Good news! We've already covered exposition. The exposition is the introduction to the story and covers the main character and setting!

CONFLICT

Now here's where things get interesting. To turn your set up into a story, you need conflict. But where does conflict come from?

Conflict happens when a character sets out to achieve a goal, but faces obstacles along the way. Obstacles can be other people or sticky situations - depending on the story!

In Trinity, Hitch's goal is to catch The Camarillo Kid. He faces lots of obstacles - like the quicksand in Shadow Gap, an army of robot knights and the slippery Camarillo Kid himself.

RESOLUTION

Here's where you get to decide whether or not your character achieves their goal! Does everything work out like in Trinity? Or is your ending a bit more tragic, like in Frankenstein?

Before I start a story, I write down my character's goal and list a few obstacles that could get in their way! Then, I can refer back to the list if I'm stuck while writing.



SAPPHIRE'S GOAL

Sapphire wants her friends, especially her older brother Spellman, to notice her sewing talent, so she decides to put on a fashion show.

OBSTACLES

1. Spellman's soccer team schedules a game at the same time as Sapphire's fashion show.
2. Two of Sapphire's models are on the team, so she'll have to find new models, fast!
3. The Bookstore Owner sweeps the Fashion Section, destroying Sapphire's designs.

Now you try! What is your main character trying to achieve? What do they want? (Goal)

What are 3 obstacles they might face along the way to achieving that goal? (Conflict)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Will your character achieve their goal? How is the conflict resolved in the end? (Resolution)



Franken-Ghost

We created a monster!

Well... we let him out of his book. And now he might destroy the bookstore! Uh oh.

Dr. Frankenstein taught us that if you decide to create something, it's best to follow through. I'm trying to remember that as I work on my own creations... my stories.

Starting a story is fun; but seeing it through to the end is downright magical.

A MONSTROUS MAZE



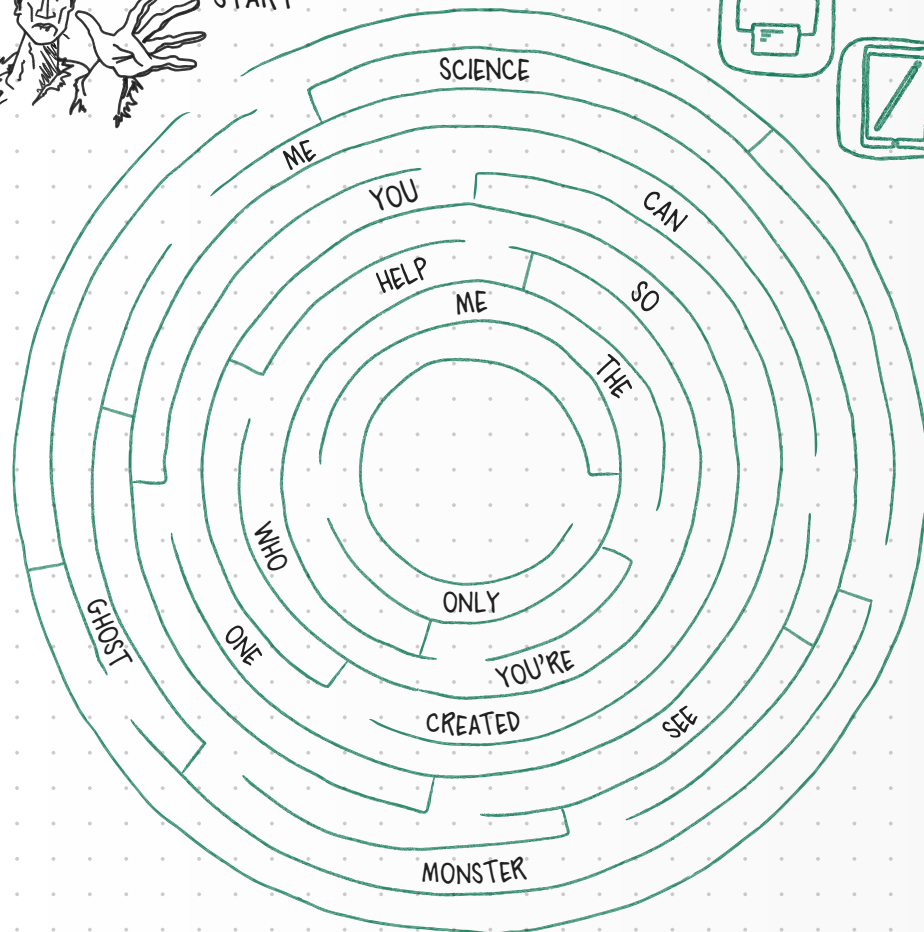
The bookstore is no place for a monster!

Help Frankenstein's monster find his way through the maze and back into his story, where he belongs!

PS: This isn't an ordinary maze. The words within the twists and turns contain a hidden message - Ghostwriter style.

HOW TO HELP THE MONSTER

1. Solve the maze, there's only one way through!
2. Write down all the words you 'pass' along the way in the word bank below
3. Unscramble the words to uncover a secret message!



WORD BANK (Hint: You'll Pass 12 Words Total!)

Unscramble the words here to uncover the secret message!

" YOU _____ , _____
_____ WHO _____ "

Answer: "You created me, so you're the only one who can help me."



GIVE BOB A HAND

Making a whole monster is tough and, let's face it, pretty terrifying.

Until I have Dr. Frankenstein-level science skills, I decided to start small and make a monster hand. I think Bob (aka Frankenstein's Monster) would give my creation two thumbs up.



SPOOKY SUPPLIES

- Plastic Gloves
- Scissors
- Food Coloring
- Water
- Monstrous Accessories (Optional)
Glitter, googly eyes, plastic spiders or anything else you may have!
- Rubber Bands

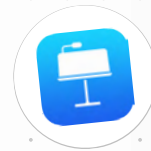
HOW TO CREATE A MONSTER (HAND)

Remember to ask a grown-up for help, especially when using scissors!

1. Open the top of your glove and put in your monstrous accessories, I used glitter and googly eyes!
2. Place 2-3 drops of food coloring, I made mine a spooky green!
3. Fill the glove almost to the top with water.
4. Shake it around gently to distribute the accessories and color
5. Seal the top of the glove with a knot or a rubber band
6. Lay your 'monster hand' gently on a plate or cookie sheet

7. Place your monster hand in the freezer overnight!
8. The next morning, remove your monster hand from the freezer, cut the top of the glove with scissors and gently peel the glove away from your hand. Be careful not to break the fingers!
9. Place you monster hand in a sink or bowl to watch it melt away!



There you have it! A monster hand that'll send chills down your spine. Don't believe me? Try shaking hands with your creation. ;)

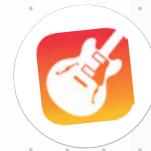


NO GLOVES? NO PROBLEM!

You can make an amazing monster using the shapes tool in Keynote!

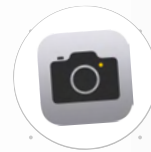


1. Open the Keynote App
2. Tap  to add a shape
3. Tap  to choose colors



SPOOKY SOUNDS!

Use GarageBand to create the kind of scary sounds your monster might make, then add the chilling sounds to your Keynote. SpOoOoKy!



I'M MELTING!

Use the Timelapse feature on your camera to take a video of your monster hand melting!



"I felt powerful as I took my last step to finally, finally bring my creation to life." -Victor Frankenstein

Dr. Frankenstein would probably agree that deciding to create something can be scary.

Even though I'm more interested in creating stories than monsters, I still get a little scared sometimes.

Starting a story is hard, finishing it is even harder and sharing the story... well, that takes real bravery.

I was nervous to share my writing with you in this journal, but I'm so glad I did! Breaking down my story really helped and now I feel ready to finish the tale of Sapphire, the Eight-Legged Fashion Designer.

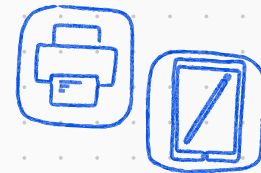
If you've followed along in this journal, you've got everything you need to write your own story - an interesting main character, an amazing setting and some exciting conflict for your riveting plot.

Now, all that's left to do is write! I can't WAIT to see what you CREATE!

XOXO,

Donna

I've saved the rest of my journal pages just for you.



Start your story here!



A series of ten horizontal lines for writing a story.

