

# Fiction Writing Clues

## Describe:

- Who: the characters
  - names, ages (maybe); how they look/act/move/think
- What: character's problems or actions
  - what action must they take?
- Who solves their problem? (should be protagonist)
- Where: location
  - Are they at home/at work/on a trip/special event?
  - Are they in a fictional land? a dream?
- When: the time
  - Does time of day/week/month/year matter? Share why.
  - Did it happen long ago, yesterday or in the future?
- Why: what do you, the Author, want the reader to know?
  - Release information as needed
  - Hold back important details as long as possible

## Use:

- Your 5 senses
  - Share what you see, hear, smell, taste and touch.
  - Use weather if it changes the struggle along the way.
- Vibrant Verbs
  - Find more descriptive words than 'went', 'run', 'got...'
- Details, details, details
  - Draw us a word picture to put us in the scene.
- Interesting nouns
  - Instead of 'store', tell us the type of store, etc.
- Illustration
  - Use words to share important details on each page.

## Check:

- Word Choice - Is there a better, more descriptive word to use?
- Beginning, Middle and End - Does your story have all 3 parts?
- SNT (Show not Tell) - Are your characters 'doing things'?
- Add a surprise (when possible)

## Then:

- Read aloud to yourself to check the flow and scout out word changes.
- Ask another person to read your work, ask questions, share ideas.
- Revise: check spelling, conventions, story flow, etc.
- Step away as long as possible before you write your final copy (to turn in).