STORIES: KEY FEATURES

Beginning, middle and end

Story beginnings should:
- Get the reader’s interest
- Set up the main problem in the story
- Give the key background information (Who? What? Where?)
- Give a hint about the genre of the story

Story middles should:
- Build up suspense
- Develop the main problem in lots of detail
- Develop the characters in more detail

Story endings must:
- Resolve (sort out) the main problem in the story

Story endings can:
- Set up a sequel (‘But that’s another story…’)
- Surprise the reader with a twist
- Leave the reader thinking (but NOT about the main problem!)

Description, action and dialogue

Stories should have a mixture of all three
Description: characters/setting
Action: what happens
Dialogue: what the characters say

How to create suspense

- With-hold information (your reader has to read on to find out)
  e.g. “The secret is...” Jane fell to the floor in a faint.
- Describe the characters’ feelings and thoughts
  e.g. As the dragon approached, John was edging backwards, ready to run.