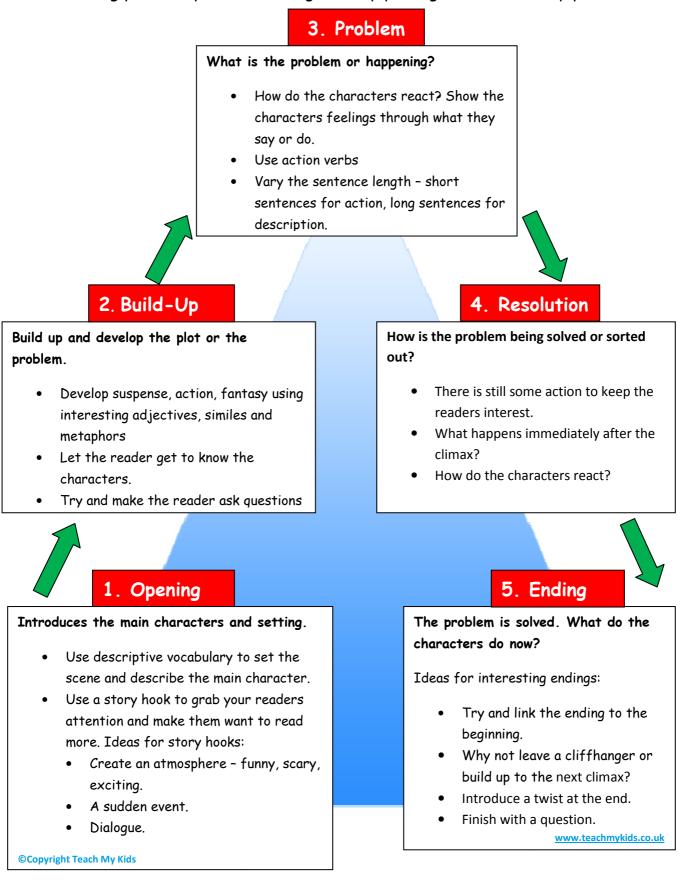# Story Mountain – Planning and Writing a Story

Planning your story before writing will help you organise and develop your ideas.

## 3. Problem

**What is the problem or happening?**

- How do the characters react? Show the characters feelings through what they say or do.
- Use action verbs
- Vary the sentence length – short sentences for action, long sentences for description.

## 2. Build-Up

**Build up and develop the plot or the problem.**

- Develop suspense, action, fantasy using interesting adjectives, similes and metaphors
- Let the reader get to know the characters.
- Try and make the reader ask questions

## 4. Resolution

**How is the problem being solved or sorted out?**

- There is still some action to keep the readers interest.
- What happens immediately after the climax?
- How do the characters react?

## 1. Opening

**Introduces the main characters and setting.**

- Use descriptive vocabulary to set the scene and describe the main character.
- Use a story hook to grab your readers attention and make them want to read more. Ideas for story hooks:
  - Create an atmosphere – funny, scary, exciting.
  - A sudden event.
  - Dialogue.

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## 5. Ending

**The problem is solved. What do the characters do now?**

Ideas for interesting endings:

- Try and link the ending to the beginning.
- Why not leave a cliffhanger or build up to the next climax?
- Introduce a twist at the end.
- Finish with a question.

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