

Your job is to write your own short story. Prepare a draft (don't worry about spelling, grammar, or even neatness) and then a final revision. The draft should be done in pencil so you can easily make changes, but the revised copy must be done in blue or black ink pen. Double-space both your draft and final copy (that means you skip every other line).

All short stories have a few common elements: **character, plot, and setting**. Using one of the ideas listed below or one of your own, write a story of roughly 3-4 pages double-spaced. Make sure to include dialogue, using quotation marks to indicate who is speaking.

1. A stolen ring, fear of spiders, and a sinister stranger.
2. Identical twins, a party invitation, and a locked closet.
3. Aerobics, a secret diary, and something unpleasant under the bed.
4. A horoscope, makeup, and a missing tooth.
5. A campfire, a scream, and a small lie that gets bigger and bigger.
6. At a Chinese restaurant, your character opens his fortune cookie and reads the following message: "Your life is in danger. Say nothing to anyone. You must leave the city immediately and never return. Repeat: say nothing."...
7. It's your character's first day at a new school. He or she wants to get a fresh start, develop a new identity. But in his or her homeroom, your character encounters a kid he or she knows from summer camp...
8. At the airport, a stranger offers your character money to carry a mysterious package onto the plane. The stranger assures your character that it's nothing illegal and points out that it has already been through the security check. Your character has serious doubts, but needs the money, and therefore agrees...
9. A man elbows your character in a crowd. After he is gone, she discovers her cell phone is too. She calls her own number, and the man answers. She explains that the cell phone has personal information on it and asks the man to send it back to her. He hangs up. Instead of going to the police, your character decides to take matters into her own hands...
10. At a garage sale, your character buys an antique urn which she thinks will look nice decorating her bookcase. But when she gets home, she realizes there are someone's ashes in it....