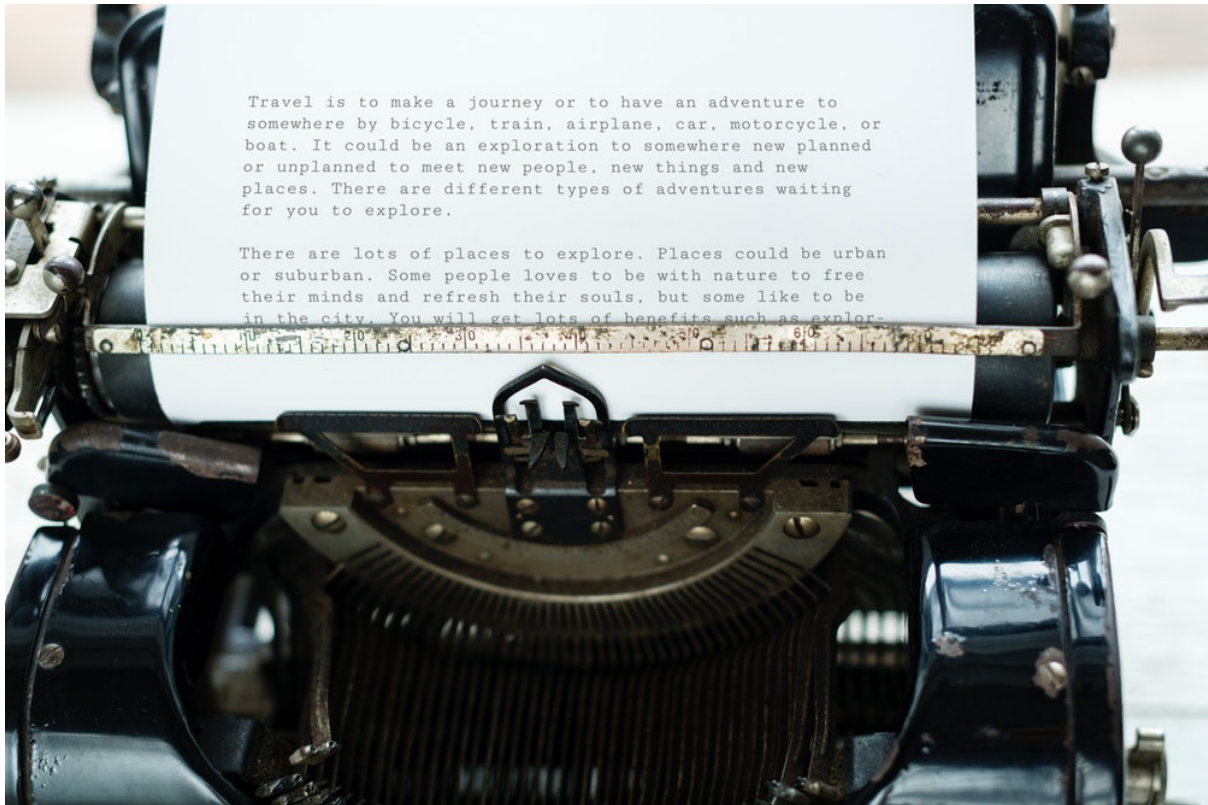
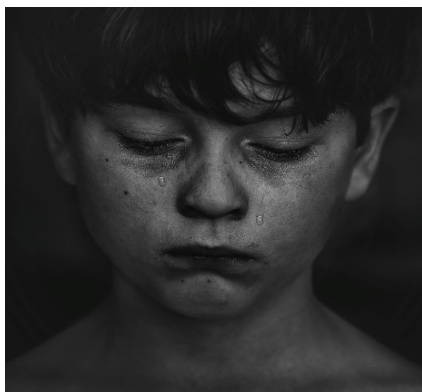
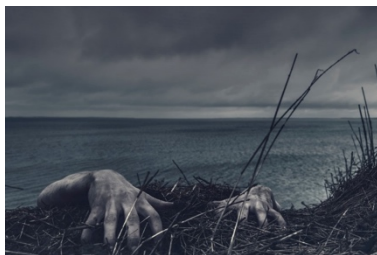


Storytelling 2: How to Create a Story

In this resource we will look at some story telling techniques and the elements that contribute to creating a good story.



What makes a good story? The subject of a story can make you laugh, cry or even terrify you so emotional stimulation is very important if a story is going to be memorable.



There are factual stories and fictitious ones that come directly from the imagination but most good stories have the following common elements.



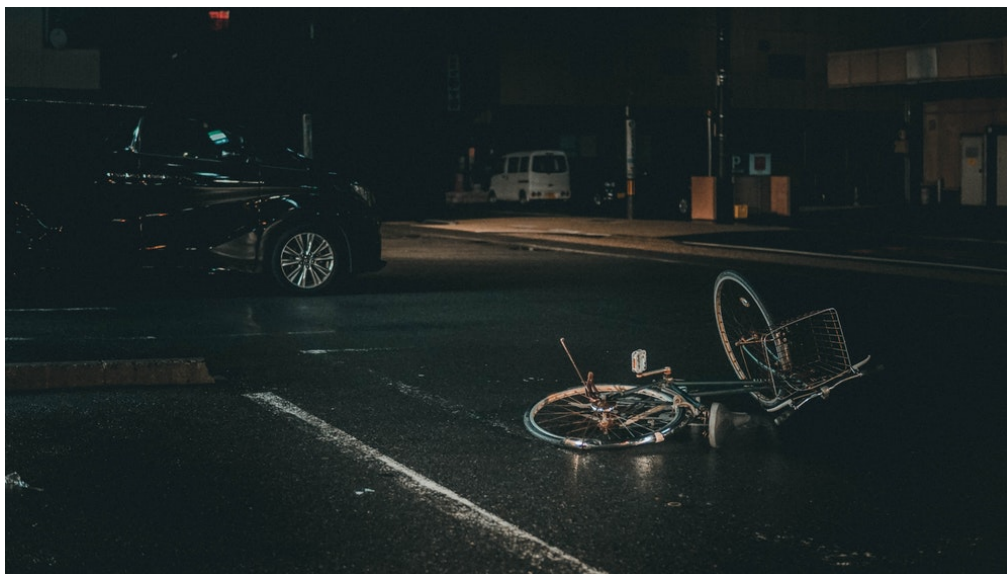
A main character or subject. This is an essential part of any story and gives the listener someone to identify with.



A location: the place a story is set in provides an opportunity to stimulate the senses through descriptions of sight, sound, smell and touch.



A conflict or problem. This is a key element of any story and the one that engages the listener most. It can be a trivial or huge dilemma but again it gives the listener something to relate to and adds a dramatic element to the story.



Conclusion: The ending of the story should leave the listener fulfilled and reflect the purpose of the story. The conflict will have been resolved in a happy or unhappy way but one that brings closure to the story.



How important is storytelling style? Think about the elements that grab your interest when someone tells you a story. Do you like it to be brief and factual, embellished or dramatic? Do you like the storyteller to speak calmly and quietly or be passionate and expressive?



Now look at your own style of storytelling. Note how quickly or slowly you speak and the tone of your voice. Stand in front of a mirror and observe your facial expressions, hand gestures and body language as you speak.



Communicating is not only verbal but also in the eye contact and body language we use. As well as using eye contact to keep the audiences' attention, we pick up cues as to how the story is impacting on the listener by observing their facial expressions and body language.



Tone and volume of voice as well as pace are also important in conveying emotion and keeping the audience engaged.



You now have some idea of the elements that go in to creating a story and know the important techniques to remember when telling that story to others. Time to get creative and put that knowledge into practise!



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