

Brrrrrrrrrm. The engine purred as mum pootled her way to Frank's house. We finally pulled up outside his house after what felt like an eternity of the fear of going to a sleepover. My heart was pounding and my hands were shaking as I reached to open the door.

Hi, I'm Jack. Let me explain how I got here. 'Here', is my friend Frank's house. I am only here because my mum wanted me to stop being a wimp and stop hiding in my room. Things that scare me are: the dark, my big brother, broccoli, being bullied, farting in class and bad dreams. I'm also claustrophobic and scared of getting into trouble at school. And that's not even the full list.

Anyway, back to how we got here. My brother had been teasing me for weeks about the fact that I was going to a sleepover because I'm scared of the dark. He was also teasing me about the fact my friend is tough, strong and pretty much the complete opposite to me.

I knocked nervously on Frank's door. Frank yanked open the door and yelled, "Jack, my man! You're here! What do you want to do first?". I froze on the doorstep unable to move. When I finally found my courage I said, "can we watch Peppa Pig?". Frank burst out laughing. "Are you serious? That's what you want to watch? You're joking, right?", I turned the same shade of red as a beetroot. I laughed. "Yeah, right. Totally joking."

Mum left. Frank asked me if I wanted some food. I said, "yeah, I guess, nervously". Frank offered me some raw broccoli. I screamed. "What's so scary? You need to eat vegetables to get big and buff like me! You look a bit skinny, you should eat more."

Frank yelled, "I know. Let's watch a movie." I squeaked softly. "Let's watch Frozen". Frank chuckled and said, "nah, let's watch Goosebumps." I whispered "ok" as I shuddered in fear. This was the sleepover of my nightmares. "Arghhhhhh." A zombie emerged from the ground.

After a long hour and a half we finally got into our sleeping bags. Frank's mum walked through the door to his bedroom and muttered goodnight to us. She reached for the light switch. Flick. I screamed longer and harder than I had ever screamed before as the bedroom became pitch black. Frank's mum hustled to get to the light switch. "What's wrong?" she asked. "It's the dark" I murmured. "What the heck Jack? I thought something was wrong!" "Frank! Something is wrong, he's terrified of the dark." Yelled Frank's mum. Just like you're scared of clowns." "Mummmmmmmmm!" Frank screeched. Perhaps big, strong Frank wasn't quite as brave as he seemed. "Really? You're afraid of clowns? I didn't think you were afraid of anything! Maybe we could overcome our fears together." "Yeah, ok. I'll think about it" Frank murmured. Perhaps I wasn't such a wimp after all.



Step 1: Plan for Success

Planning a Narrative – Story

Part 1: Brainstorming and Selecting an Idea

TOPIC: *Overcoming a challenge*

Think of a time when you had to overcome a challenge and prove yourself. Share your ideas with the class and make a list. Aim for at least 10 ideas to get one great idea.

Examples:

Trying new food

Auditioning

Sports trials

Overcoming a fear



Going to France
~~now~~
for sleep
over

1. ~~Overcoming a fear~~ of the dark.
2. Overcoming a fear of a sibling.
3. Overcoming a fear of snow-bording.
4. Overcoming ~~cast~~faber.
5. Going to school camp.
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Circle the best idea. Aim for an original idea that's the right size (not a movie-length idea for a 500-word story).

Part 2: Developing and Ordering Ideas

Once you have an idea, develop it further by brainstorming the key elements of your story.

Selected idea: someone goes to a sleep over who is scared ~~of the~~

Brainstorm 3-10 problems or events that could happen in your story.

- spider in sleeping bag
- scary movie (gives night mers)
- light gets turned off

Brainstorm 5-10 characters who could be in your story.

- Jack - skittish
 - scared of everything - wimp
 - scared of his big brother (pebble)
 - skinny, runt

- Frank - big and strong (solid)
 - brave
 - self-centred

- Levi - Jack's big brother - unkind to Jack
 - not strong / not weak - out with his friends a lot