



Step 1: Plan for Success The Chatterbox

Chatterbox writing prompts

Every story has a hero/heroine, a villain and a big problem. For example:

- A psychic teacher tracks down a greedy Cinderella who has poisoned people with chocolates
- A man who's scared of seagulls has to defeat an evil clown to save a kidnapped dog
- A chatline chick tries to stop a maniac movie star from releasing a worldwide computer virus.

What do they do? How do they meet? What goes wrong because of the problem? How can the hero/heroine save the situation? How does it all end?

Complete the blank chatterbox template on the next page by adding heroes, villains and problems. Now you can use your chatterbox to create over 500 story ideas!

How to fold the chatterbox

1. Cut out the chatterbox template.
2. Turn the paper over so that the patterned side faces down.
3. Fold all four corners into the middle and crease well.
4. Turn the paper over.
5. Fold all four corners into the middle and crease well.
6. Make the final creases by folding your square in half and then into quarters.

How to play

Slip your thumbs and fingers into the outside sleeves and move the chatterbox back and forth to start generating story ideas. The chatterbox gives you what every story needs – a hero/heroine, a villain and a problem. Now let your imagination fly and use these to create a great story!

To determine how many times to move the chatterbox back and forth, you could try:

- spelling out the name of your chosen hero or villain, for example S-U-P-E-R-M-A-N
- rolling dice and counting, for example one, two, three
- spelling out your age, for example N-I-N-E.

Chatterbox Template

The Chatterbox Template consists of a 3x3 grid of boxes. Each box is a square divided into four triangles by a diagonal line from the top-left to the bottom-right. The labels are as follows:

- Top-left box: 'HERO:' in the top-left triangle.
- Top-middle box: 'VILLAIN:' in the top-right triangle.
- Top-right box: 'HERO:' in the top-right triangle.
- Middle-left box: 'VILLAIN:' in the top-left triangle.
- Middle-middle box: 'PROBLEM:' in the top-right triangle.
- Middle-right box: 'PROBLEM:' in the top-right triangle.
- Bottom-left box: 'PROBLEM:' in the top-right triangle.
- Bottom-middle box: 'PROBLEM:' in the top-right triangle.
- Bottom-right box: 'VILLAIN:' in the top-right triangle.
- Bottom-right box (bottom-right triangle): 'HERO:' in the bottom-right triangle.