

Your task:
Write a 3-5 page
suspenseful story to be shared
ANONYMOUSLY
with the class!



Write alone,
with 1 other
person, or
with 2 other
people.

YOU HAVE 3 DAYS TO CRAFT AN
AWARD-WINNING STORY.
WIN 1, 2, OR 3 QUIZ POINTS!

Assignment: Very Short Suspense Story

(Skipping lines and writing on the fronts and backs of papers—3-5 pages MAXIMUM)

Suggestions:

1. **Use established characters**— Use characters from other stories or movies; use you and your friends.
2. Set up a **bullet-point list of the plot** BEFORE you start writing.
3. **Plan the story BACKWARDS**. Decide how you want it to *end* and work your way backward from that.
4. Add elements of **foreshadowing** throughout the story. (You can do this if you're working backwards!)
5. Add a **twist at the very end**. (But don't you *dare* say that it was "just all a dream.")
6. Make the reader **care about the protagonist**. (underdog? overcoming a situation?)
 7. Visit the **location of the climax** BEFORE the climax happens so that you don't have to break momentum to describe it at the time of the excitement.
8. Allow the readers to see **inside the antagonist's mind** too.
9. **Make the events personal for the protagonist**—name names. Don't just have a city in danger—Have it be Grandma's city! Nothing is safe here—relatives, friends, teachers, pets.
10. **Appeal to your readers' phobias**. What scares *you*? Dark basements? Crickets? Use it!
11. As you build toward the climax, **isolate your main character**.
12. **Apply pressure**. Keep making the situation harder and harder for the protagonist to overcome.
13. Write **authentic-sounding dialogue**. Be sure to write it on the paper almost like the script of a play—every time a different character speaks, they start on a new line. (NO SWEARING.)
14. Don't drag the story out too long. Remember—you're doing this to win a contest. **Keep things moving**.
15. **Be unpredictable**. (Again, it was NOT "all just a dream"!)

Creating My Suspense Story

Name(s) _____

The Set-Up: (Exposition)

who: _____
what: _____
when: _____
where: _____

The Tipping Point

Who gives in? _____

Story wraps up: _____

All the pieces make sense now: _____

Minor Set Back _____

Tension builds _____

foreshadowing: _____

Minor Set Back _____

Tension builds _____

foreshadowing: _____

The Conflict

man vs self? man vs nature? man vs man? man vs SUPERnatural? man vs curse?
man vs time limit? man vs completing a task? man vs finding something?
man vs fate? man vs UrbanLegend?

The Resolution _____

Who wins? _____

What does the future hold? _____
