

# Rob Lloyd Jones's Six Story Challenges

**Rob Lloyd Jones is the award winning children's author of over 80 books, including the *Wild Boy* and *Jake Atlas* adventure novels for Walker Books and the best-selling *See inside* and *Look inside* books for Usborne Publishing.**

**Here he shares six story-telling tips, and sets six simple challenges to help you write your own amazing story.**



## **CHALLENGE 1 – FAVOURITE STORIES**

Hello all!

My name is Rob and I write stories. I've been an author for over a decade, and along the way I've learned a few tips and tricks to make writing stories easier. Because it can be a scary thing to do. Sometimes I think it's like going for a walk. If you don't know where to go then it's easy to get lost. But if you have a guide or map then you'll be much more confident to set off on your adventure.

Often, authors create a map of their story before they begin writing. For me, this especially helps when I'm feeling uncertain. I just look at my story map and feel a more confident about where the story is going.

That's what these short challenges are all about – creating your own map, or plan, for your story. By the end you'll be all set to begin writing your own amazing story!

Just remember there is no such thing as a bad story or a wrong story, so there are no wrong answers. That's the best thing about storytelling: as long as you're enjoying it no one can say you're doing it wrong. There are so many rules in life – always brush your teeth, make your bed, don't pick your nose.... Stories are the one place where there are NO RULES whatsoever. Your characters can do anything and your story can go anywhere, no matter how wild or outrageous.

So get your story hats on!

*The first thing I'd like to ask is really simple... What is your favourite story, and why?*

Pick a story you love, think about why you love it so much, and then write that down in a few sentences. Don't just say 'because its cool' – I'd like you to think about *why* it is cool. What about the story appealed to?

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## TIPS FOR CHALLENGE No. 1...

Think about how your favourite story makes you *feel*. Good stories are packed with big feelings – anger, excitement, sadness, happiness, relief and others. Once a reader feels something for the characters (“She’s so funny!” “Grrr, this person makes me mad!”) they want to follow them through all their adventures.

Think about the difference between STORY and PLOT. PLOT is the stuff that happens. STORY is who it is happening *to*, why they are doing it and how they feel about it. Story is all about CHARACTERS. That’s why we turn pages in a book – not because of the stuff that’s happening, but because we care about who it is happening to. Try to think about the characters in your favourite story. Are they the reason you love that story so much?

Once you have written down why you love your favourite story, we can move on to the next challenge – which is all about characters.

Good luck!

Rob

**Here are some books Rob wrote using these tips. His ‘Wild Boy’ novels are perfect for anyone studying the Victorian times, while the ‘Jake Atlas’ adventures are ideal for topics on the ancient world. They’re also great stories! Find out more at [www.robloydjones.com](http://www.robloydjones.com)**

