

# COLLECTING IDEAS FOR YOUR STORY

Inspired by Adam Rubin's *The Ice Cream Machine!*

ISBN: 9780593325797 Ages: 8-12

Writing is magical, and your story can be about anything you want! Start collecting ideas for what you might like to write about by filling in the blanks below with as many examples as you can think of.

I love \_\_\_\_\_ .

I hate \_\_\_\_\_ .

I know about \_\_\_\_\_ .

I would like to know more about \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ .

Some of my favorite things to do are \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ .

Some places I've visited are \_\_\_\_\_ .

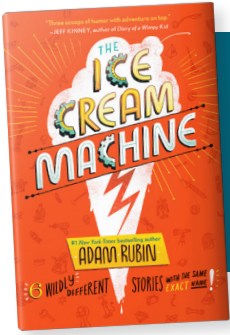
\_\_\_\_\_ .

Some stories I like are \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ .

## INTERESTED IN MORE ACTIVITIES?

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# NAME YOUR STORY

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Names have power and a good one can stick in your mind forever! Your story's title helps define what it will be about. Using the lines below, write down some of your favorite lyrics, phrases, quotes, or words. If you need help, open a book to a random page and find a phrase you like to help generate a name for your story.

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# INVENTING A CHARACTER

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Who is your story about? It could be a hero, a villain, an animal, or even yourself! Defining your main character will help define WHO they are and WHAT they want. Using the blank squares below, draw and/or describe what your character looks like, what they love doing, and their strengths and weaknesses.

What does your character look like?

What does your character love to do?

What are your character's strengths?

What are your character's weaknesses?

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# CREATE YOUR SETTING

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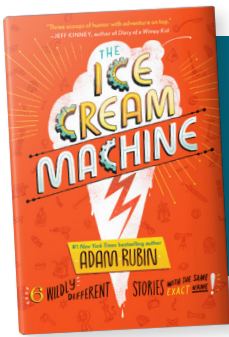
Where and when does your story take place? Whether it happens on another planet during a huge snowstorm or on a desert island during a hurricane, the ideas are endless for describing your story setting! Using the blank squares below, draw and/or describe where your story is taking place, and what is happening in that environment.

Where is your story taking place? \_\_\_\_\_

What is happening in your setting? \_\_\_\_\_

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# IT'S TIME TO PLOT

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What will happen in your story? Will it be happy, sad, exciting, hilarious? Using the ice cream image below, write out the details of how you want your story to go. This is the time to incorporate all the cool ideas you've already collected.

**BEGINNING**

**THE WEIRD THING THAT HAPPENS**

**SHENANIGANS**

**CLIMAX**

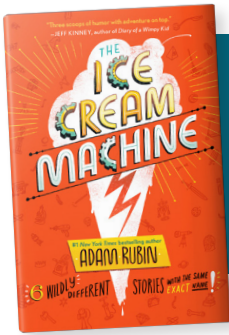
**ENDING**

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# NOW LET'S WRITE

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It's time to bring your imagination to life! Write the rough draft of your story using the lines below (and extra paper if needed). It's important to try and write out your story from start to finish! Don't worry about getting it perfect, you can always fix it later.

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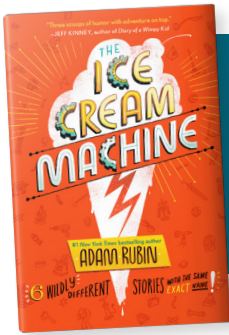
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# ASK FOR HELP

Inspired by Adam Rubin's *The Ice Cream Machine*!

Once you've got your story in good shape, it's a good idea to get some feedback from a reader. You might have missed a major detail or over explained something in your story without realizing! Using the lines below, write down any answers you've received from your friends or family.

Which parts did you like the most? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is your favorite character and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were any parts confusing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What emotions did you feel as you read it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you notice any themes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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