

# Narrative Writing

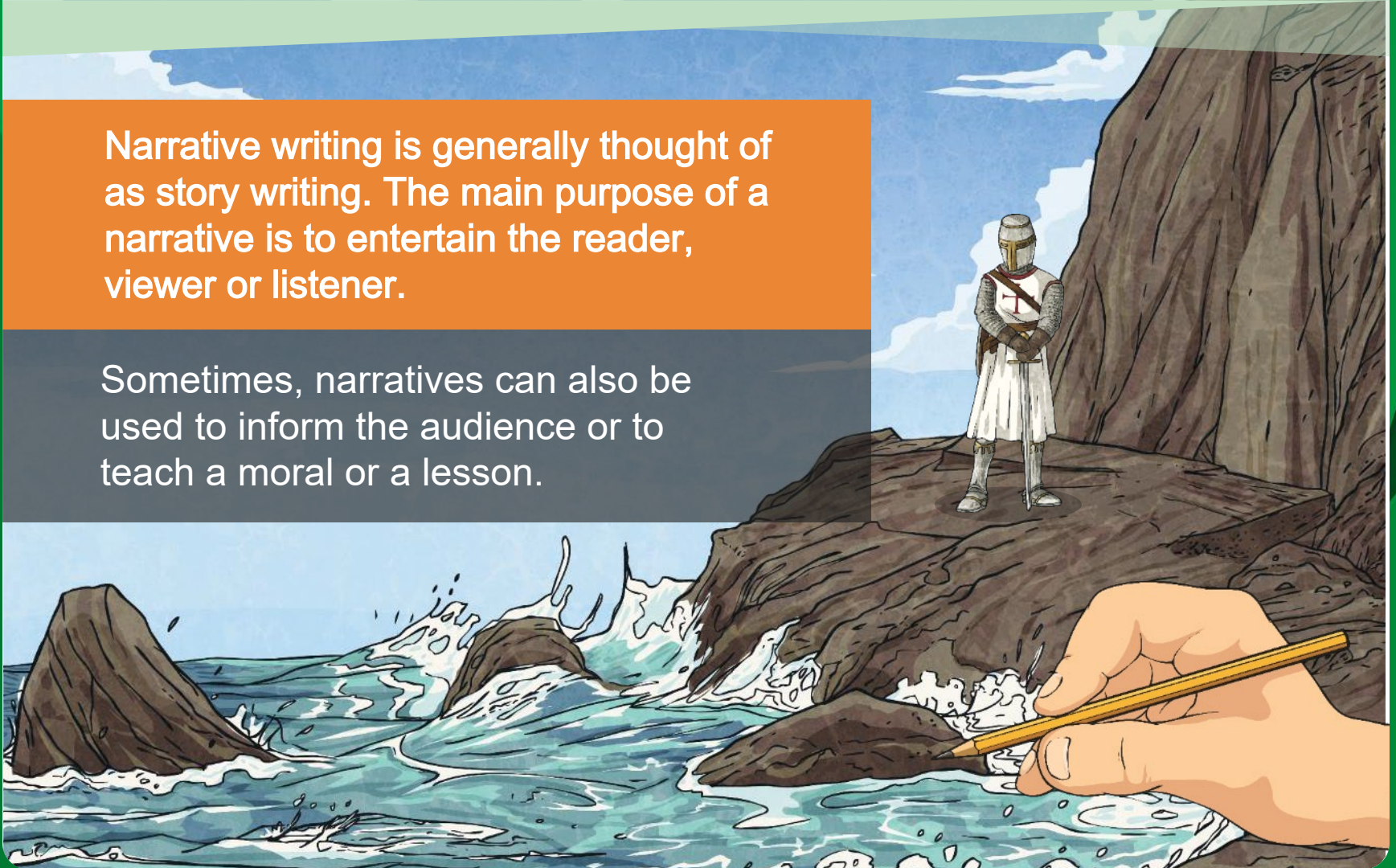




# What Is Narrative Writing?

Narrative writing is generally thought of as story writing. The main purpose of a narrative is to entertain the reader, viewer or listener.

Sometimes, narratives can also be used to inform the audience or to teach a moral or a lesson.

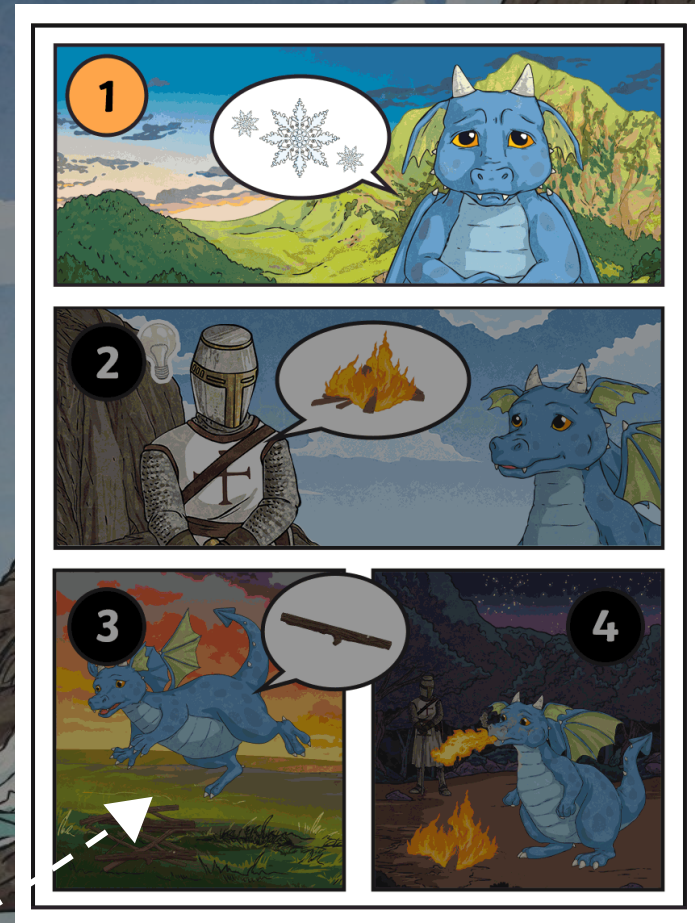


# What Is Narrative Writing?

Usually, narratives will follow a very specific structure which includes an opening, a build-up, a dilemma, a resolution and a closing.

They will often be written **chronologically** but they can be set at any point in the past, present or future.

**chronologically:** In a way that follows the order in which events occurred.





# Types of Narrative Texts



Different types of narrative texts are called **genres**.

Can you think of any other genres of narrative texts in addition to the ones below?

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?

Click on each '?' box to reveal that answer.

# Features of a Narrative Text

A narrative text usually...



**Contains lots of description to allow the reader or listener to imagine things vividly and accurately.**



# Amazing Openings

All narratives must have an opening (beginning).

The purpose of an opening is to 'hook' the audience and to make them want to carry on reading, watching or listening to the story.

story in  
ttle;

the story  
characters

**character description**, which gives the reader someone to connect with;

**setting description**, which gives the reader something to imagine.



# Brilliant Beginnings

Imagine that this is the setting for the narrative that you are about to create.

?

How are you going to open this story?

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How will you hook your audience right from the beginning?





# Identify the Dilemma

In almost every story you read, there will be a dilemma (problem).

Think of five stories that you have read or films that you have seen. What were the dilemmas in each of them?



Why do you think that narratives need a dilemma?  
What would happen if everything just went well?



# Picture the Problem

How many different dilemmas could there be in your narrative based on just this picture?

?

Try to think outside of the box and really look at all of the small details of the picture to find a problem that the audience won't be able to see coming.



# Realistic Resolutions

When trying to resolve the dilemma in a narrative, it is crucial that the resolution is believable and possible.

Imagine that your main character has been chased by a hungry dragon and has been cornered.

In what logical or possible way could this dilemma be resolved?



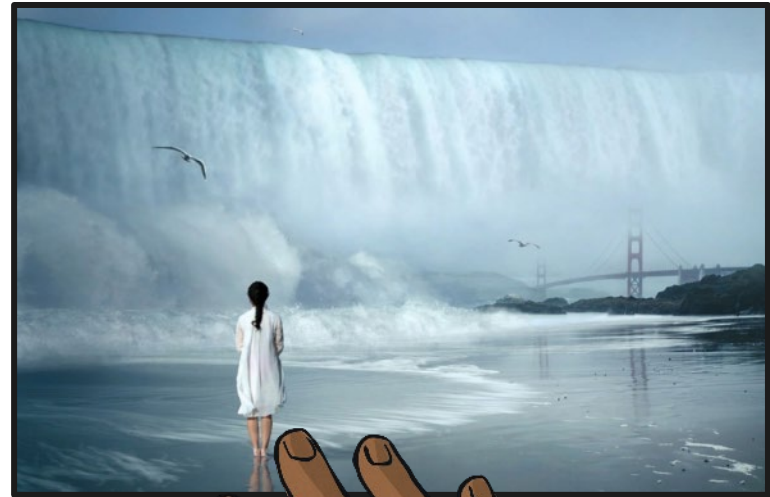
What sort of resolution would be absurd, illogical or impossible and could disappoint your audience?



# Believable Not Boring

The dilemma here is that the girl is stuck on the beach and an enormous, powerful wave is coming towards her.

How could this situation be resolved?



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**Remember:** You can't introduce a new character or prop at this point without their being a logical explanation for them being there.

# Keep Them Wanting More

Sometimes, narratives like adventure stories, chillers and thrillers end with a cliffhanger.

A cliffhanger is a dramatic and exciting ending to the story that leaves the audience in suspense because they do not know what happens next.

This can be a brilliant way to end a story if you plan to write a further installment.



It can also be an effective way to leave your audience feeling spooked at the end of a chiller tale when they thought that everything was 'back to normal'.



# Consider Both Options

The **dilemma** was that the chick got lost. The **resolution** was that the chick returned home.

What could a logical end to the story be?

?

How could you turn the ending into a cliffhanger ?



