Writing Good Stories

Stories are written for entertainment and stories can be told using story-tellers, books, film and even computer games.

There are three important elements to a good story:

1. Plot - A story needs to be original to be interesting and you need to make sure that you have a clear storyline that is easy to follow.
2. Characters - Characters that are memorable are characters that you can identify with. When writing a story, think what you would do in that situation and try to think why they do things. (Motivation) It is also important not to introduce too many characters at once; it slows the story and may confuse the reader.
3. Descriptions - Try to think visually and don't assume that people know the locations you are describing. Also be careful not to overdo descriptions, because they will slow your story down.

Be careful with tenses:
- Don't mix your tenses, because it can cause confusion.
- Generally the past perfect is used for flashbacks and is very difficult to use correctly.
- The present tenses are mostly used for direct speech in stories.

Each story should have three parts:

1. Beginning - A good beginning should have something to interest the reader. It could be a dramatic start; it could be an interesting description or a mystery.
2. Middle - This is where the story develops and it is important to have a clear sequence (order) in mind, so that the reader can follow it.
3. End - It is good to end with a twist or a big action finale, which makes your story stand out. Make sure you do not end by saying that it was a dream, judges hate it!

Don't be satisfied with your first attempt, read it to people, ask their opinions and don't be afraid to rewrite parts.

Check grammar, spelling and punctuation before submitting your essay!