

Writing Ideas

A SELECTION OF NARRATIVE WRITING TASKS FOR
SECONDARY CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

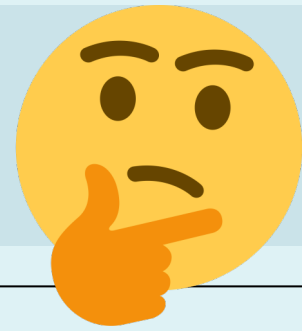
What is the Writing over Time (WoT) project?

The WoT project is all about how children's writing, in the Merseyside area, has changed over time. To investigate this, samples of Merseyside children's writing has been digitised from the APU archive—the largest historical archive of children's reading, speech and writing. Similar data has also been collected and digitised from local partner schools from 2020-2022. The digitisation of this writing enables the comparison of writing before and after the Digital turn and implementation of the National Curriculum.

So what is this booklet for?

Not only does this research allow for the exploration of language and language change but it also facilitates an impact on the wider educational community through the transfer of research into tangible outcomes. We have therefore created this booklet complete with activities taken from the 1979-1988 APU writing tasks. It is a resource which can be used to support children's writing both in school and at home.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU



Look at the coloured picture in this booklet. What does it suggest to you? Create a piece of writing to go with the picture.



Some ideas to think about...

What is the plot of the story? Take some time to think about what is going to happen in your story. Is the image showing the beginning, middle or end? What will happen at the start, the middle and the end?

Where is your story set? Think about the location of your story. Is there only going to be the cave shown in the image or will there be other places which are visited?

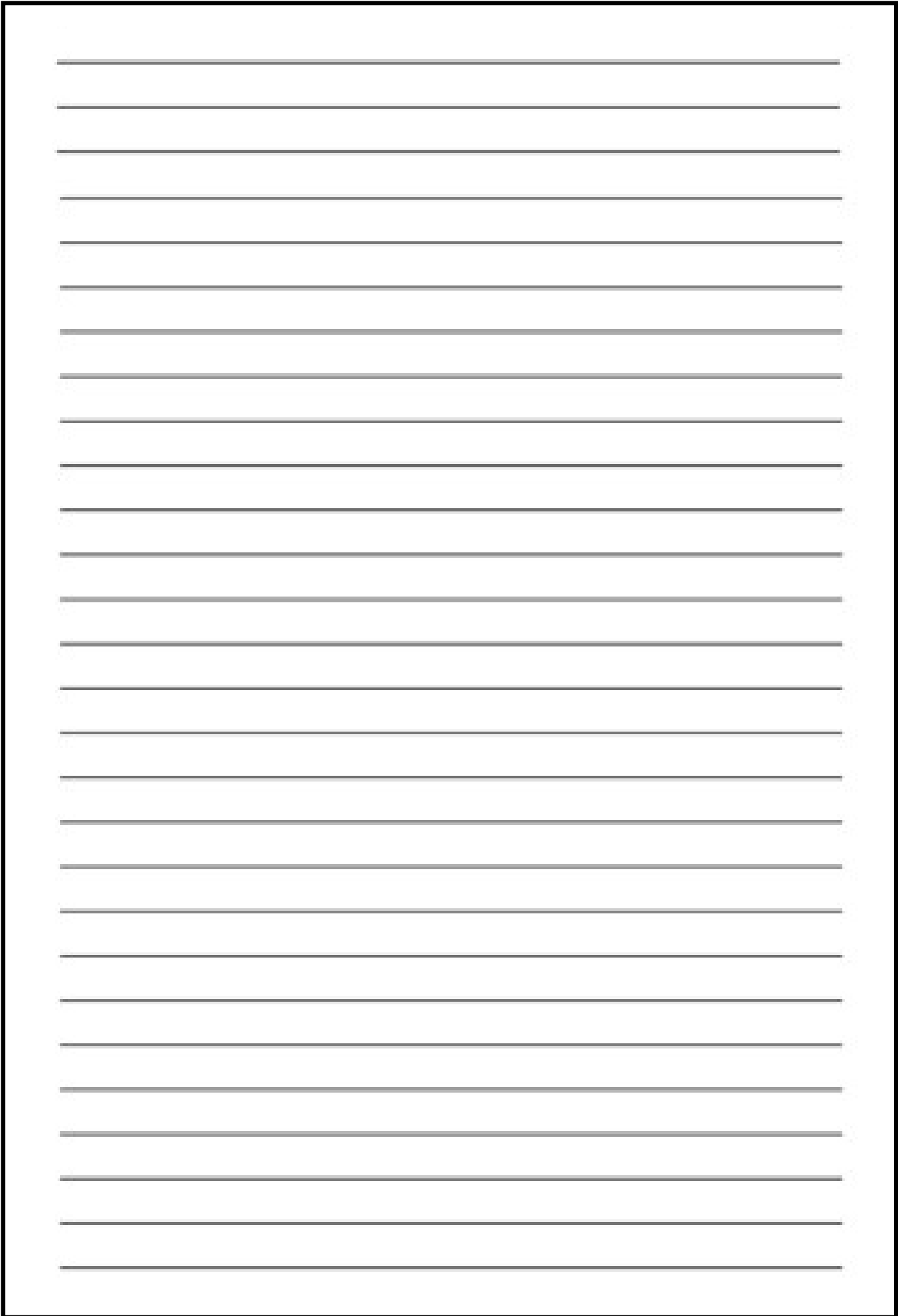
What characters will you have? Decide on the characters that will be in your story. What are their names? What do they look like? What is their role in the story?

Descriptions: Make sure you add in detailed descriptions through your story so the reader can feel like they are actually there.

What will the title be?

Here is some space to write. If you wish, you can continue onto additional pages.

A large rectangular box with a black border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the box, leaving a small margin on the left and right sides.



WRITE A STORY



Write a story which would be suitable for reading aloud to a 4 or 5 year old child.

Some ideas to think about...

What is the plot of your story going to be? What would be exciting for a young child to listen to? Think back to any stories that you remember from your childhood to give you inspiration or something that you would have found interesting as a child. What will happen at the start, the middle and the end?

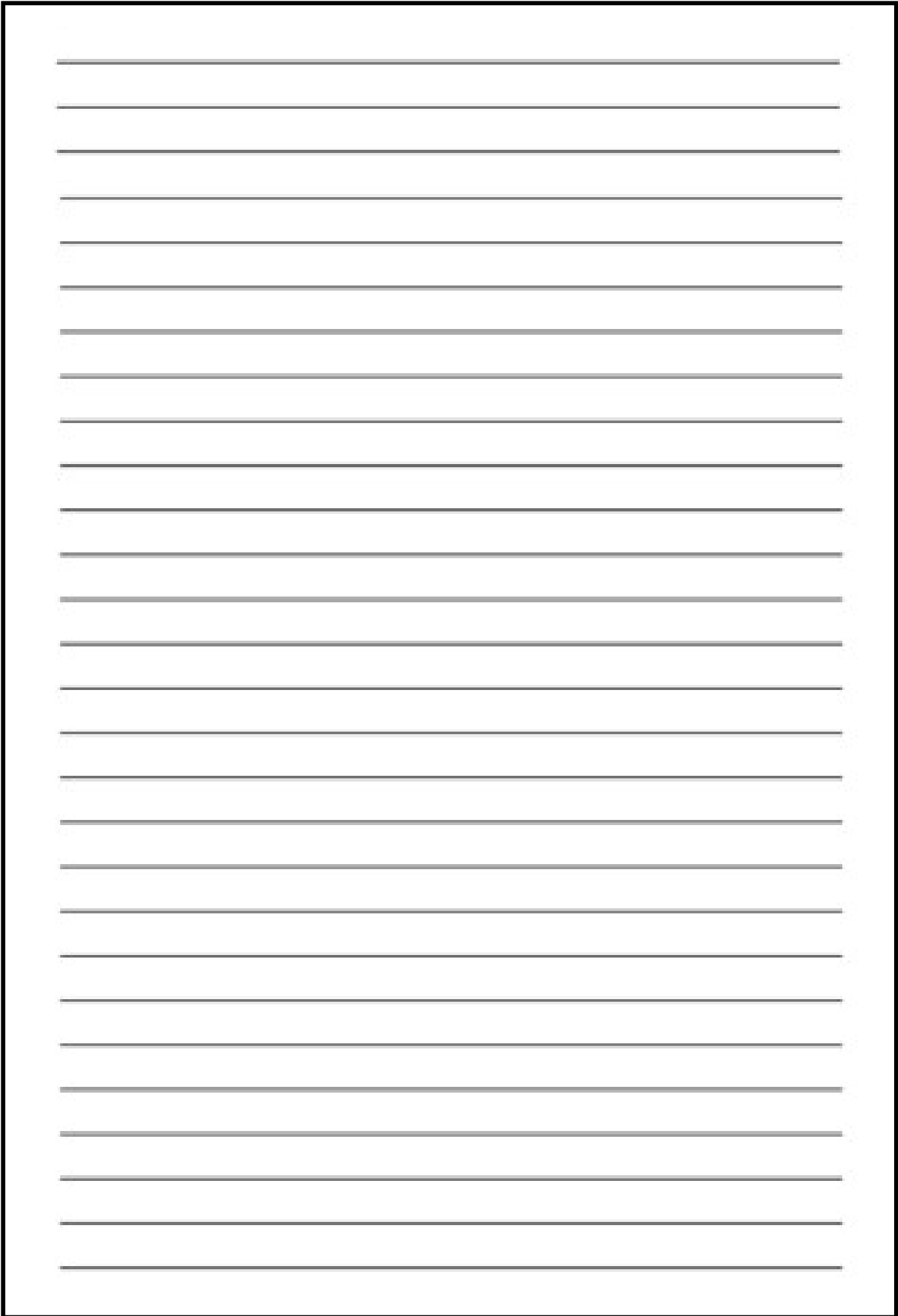
What characters will your story have? Think about the characters your story will have, ensuring they are exciting for a young child. Make sure you add in a good description of them. What do they look like? What is their name? What do they do in the story?

Where is your story set? Will it be a mystical land? On a farm? In outer space? Or maybe at the seaside?

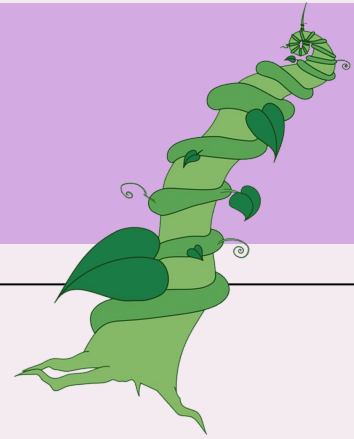
What is the title going to be?

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A TRADITIONAL TALE




Think of a story most people know. It could be a story from history, a folk-tale, a legend, even a fairy story. Invent a new and completely different way for the story to end. Tell your ending to the story.

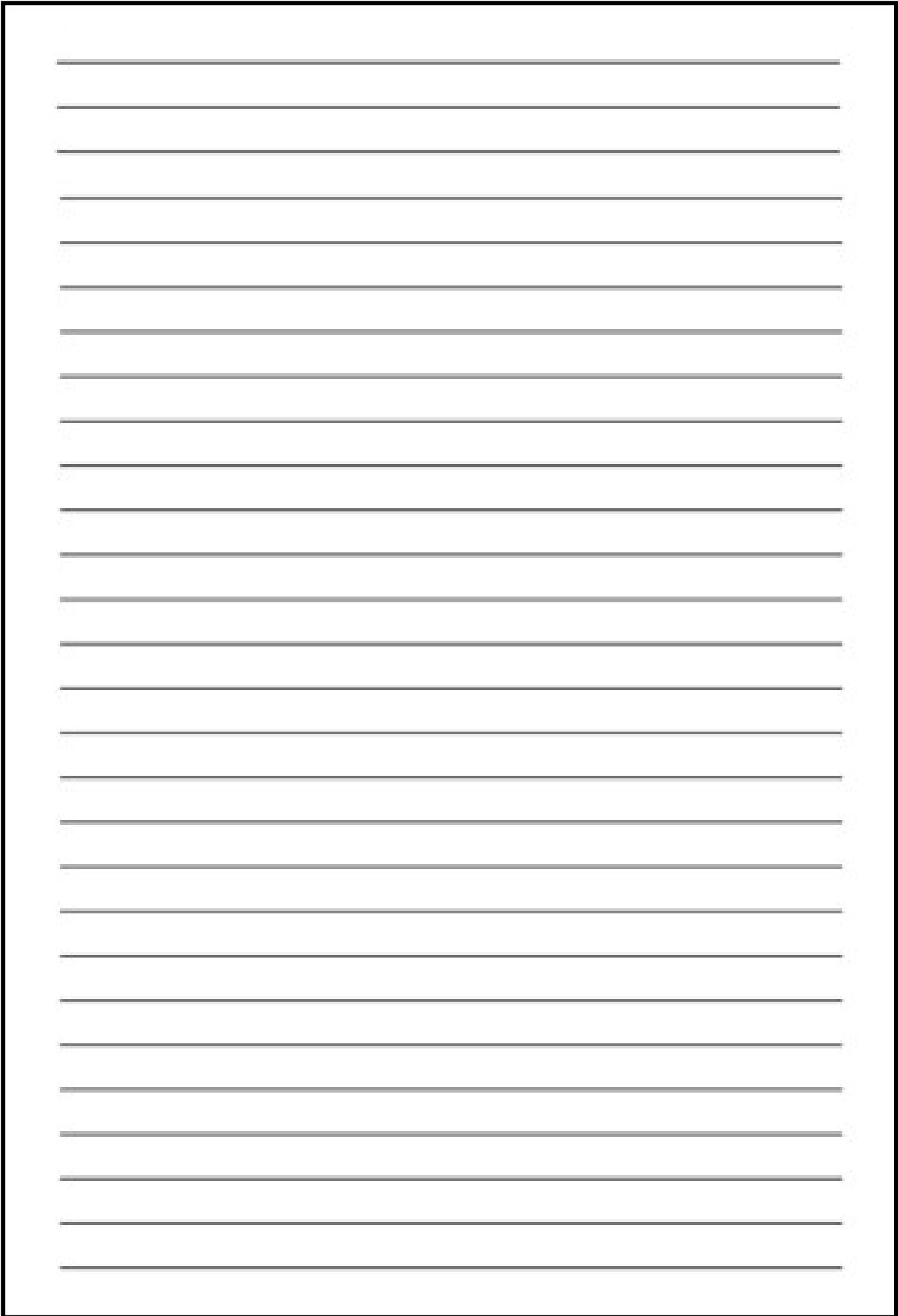
Some ideas to think about...

What story are you going to choose? Think of a tale that you know well. Will it be Jack and the Beanstalk? Snow White? Robin Hood? The Minotaur?

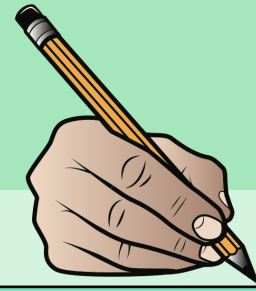
How are you going to change the ending? Take some time to plan how you will make the ending different in the story. Will you bring in new characters? Will the original characters change somehow? Will a problem be solved or will a problem not be solved? Will the setting change? Will a discovery be made?

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FINISH THE STORY



We would like you to write a story. The story has been started already, and there is a picture to go with it. Look carefully at the picture and then finish the story. Here is the beginning of the story....

I blinked open my eyes as the blinding light of the sun shone down. I rubbed my sleeve across my face, my eyes hurting from the glaring rays. I sat up and observed my surroundings. Here I was, sat on a stretch of sand and trees, enclosed by nothing but water. The most important question, how on earth did I get here?



Some ideas to think about...

What will the plot of your story be? Jot down some ideas of what could happen in the story. Think about what could happen next from what has already been written.

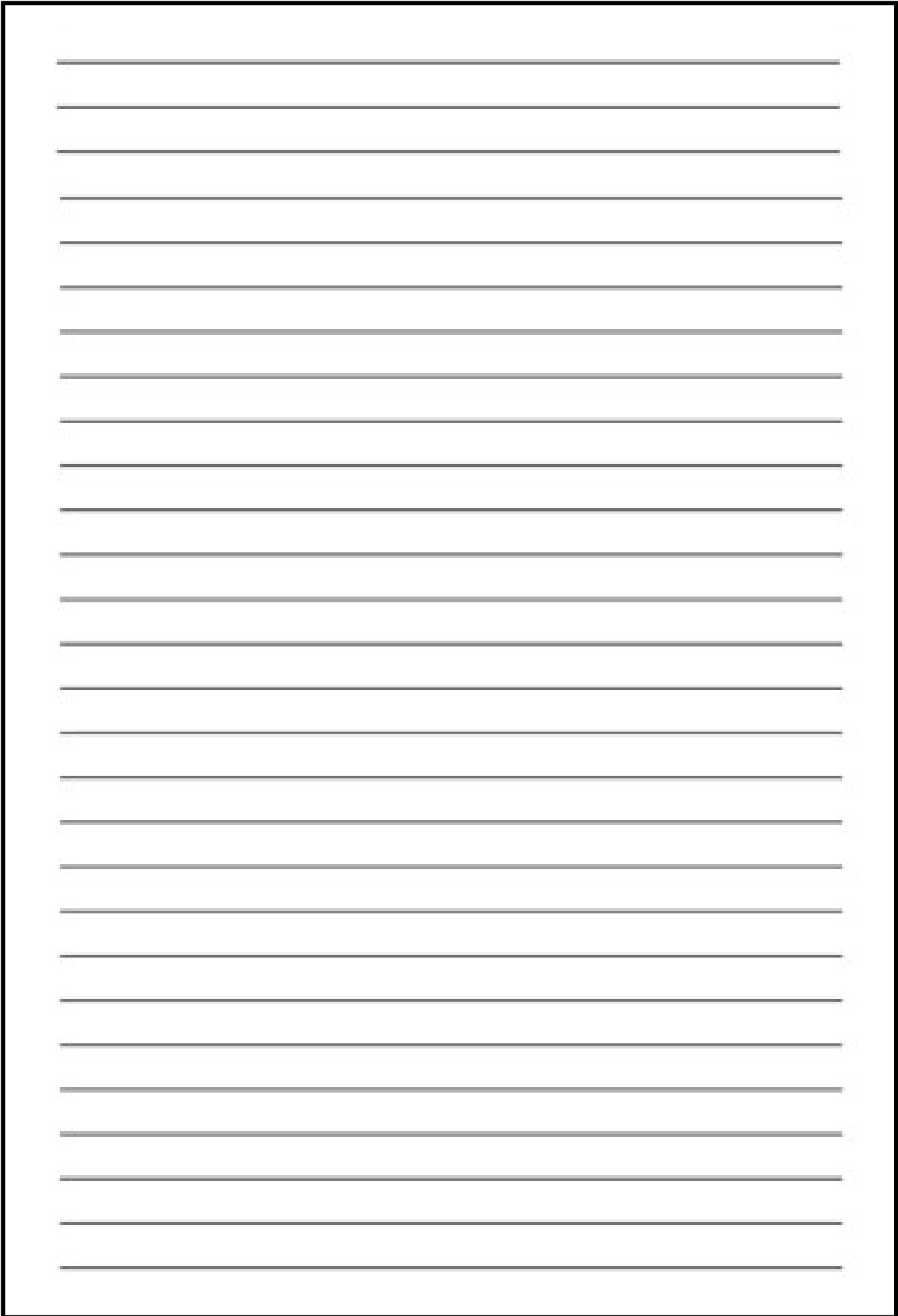
What characters will you have? Think about any other characters that might be introduced as the story continues. Consider what your characters look like and what they do throughout, making sure to add in some good descriptions for the reader.

Where will the story be set? Will there be locations other than the one shown in the image?

What will the title be?

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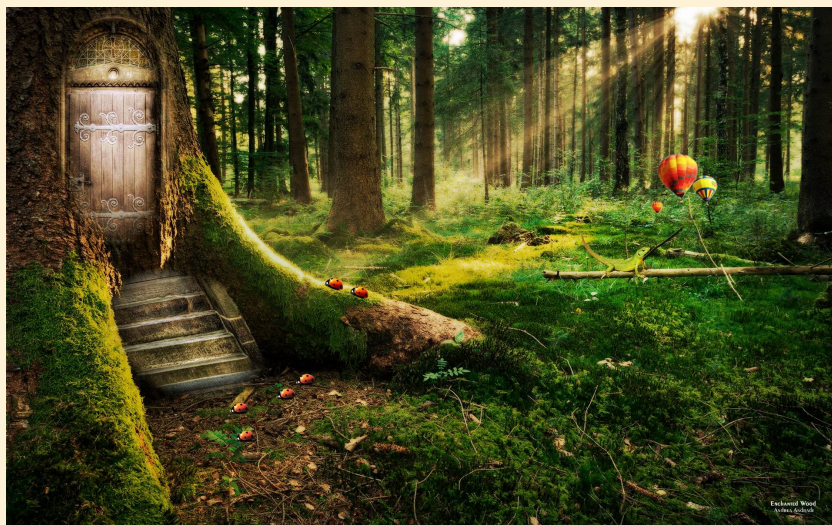


INVENT A STORY



Look at the picture below. Imagine that the picture is taken from a television film. Study the picture carefully and try to work out what might have happened in the film that would lead up to this particular scene, and what happens next.

Write a story that you think goes well with the picture using your ideas of what has happened before the scene and what is going to come next.



Some ideas to think about...

What is the title going to be?

Where is the story set?

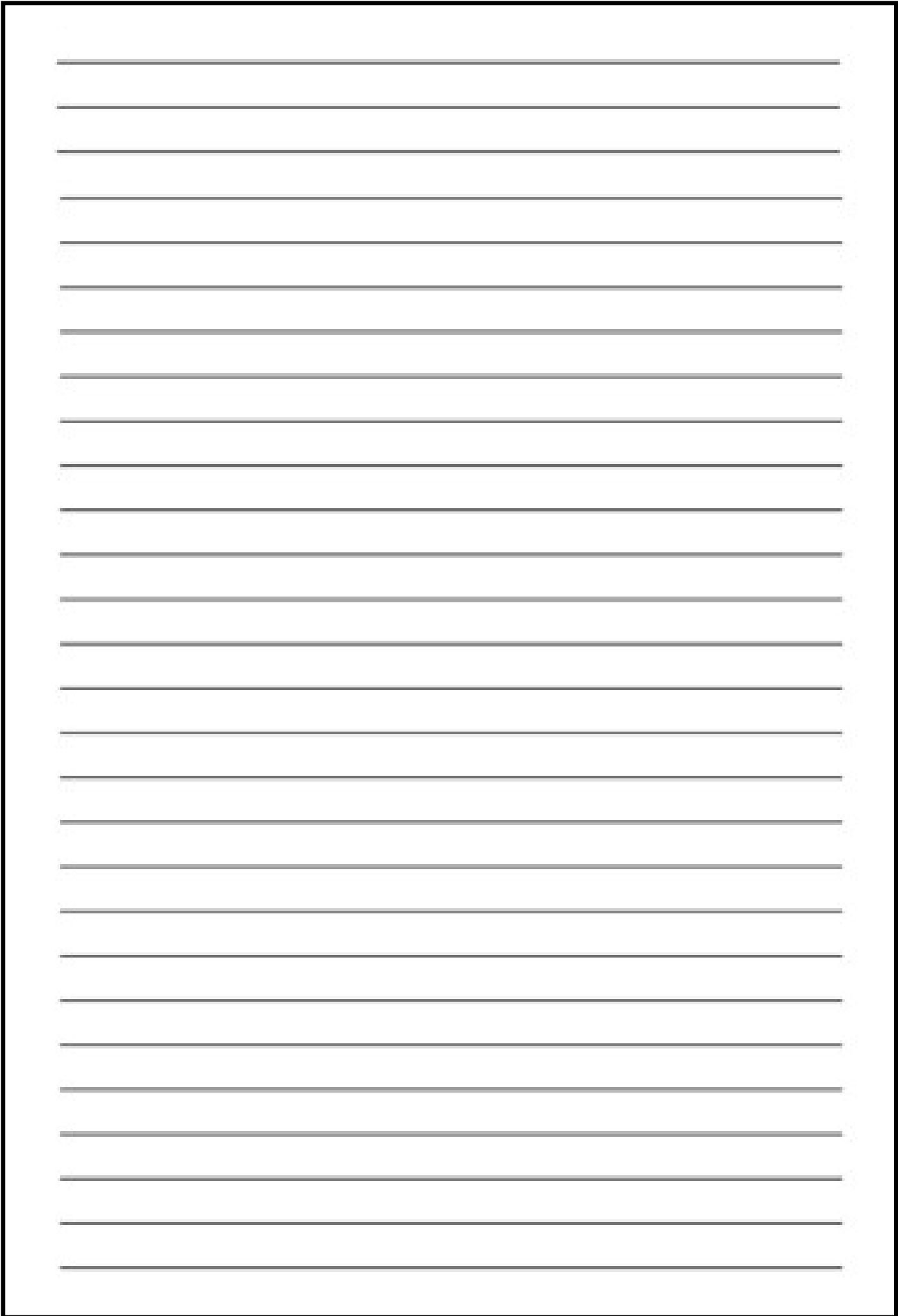
Who are the main characters?

What happened to lead up to the image?

How does the story end?

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