

## My Story Title

When I am writing my story I will be creative and follow the topic or theme that my teacher has given me. The margins in my page layout will be normal (2.5cm for top, bottom and both sides). I will ensure that I use Tw Cen MT fonts sized 14. My spacing should be 1.15. My character count should be between 2,000 and 2,800 including spaces and the number of lines should not be more than 40. To view my character count and number of lines I can just click where it says Words in the bottom of the screen and it will display the word count box which says how many, pages, words characters, paragraphs and lines there are. Here are some helpful hints:

### **Seven Steps to Writing Success (Jen McVeity)**

#### **Step 1: Plan for Success**

A joke, a movie, a TV sitcom, a book a great story—what they all have in common? They all follow the same '**story graph**'. Start with a bang, slowly build up the tension and end on a real high point. Step 2: Sizzling Starts Start where the action is. Not at the beginning of the day where nothing is happening. Begin when the volcano starts oozing lava or as you walk in the door to the big disco competition.

#### **Step 3: Tightening Tension**

You must believe the hero (male or female) will fail. The tornado is too strong, the villain is too evil, the black forces of depression are too overwhelming. Yet, through strength, talent and determination, somehow our hero wins. Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue Think of dialogue as a mini play in the story. Let your character walk, talk or even stalk – that's how we get to know them.

#### **Step 5: Show Don't Tell**

If I tell you I am generous, do you believe me??? No way. But if I buy all 20 raffle tickets to help cancer research, are you more convinced? Actions really do speak louder than words.

#### **Step 6: Ban the Boring Bits**

Everyone gets up, gets dressed, travels to school...it's not exactly exciting. So why write about it? Ban all mention of the 'boring B' words—beds, breakfast and bus trips. Think like the movies, the heroes never travel, they just arrive... Step 7: Exciting Endings Would you tell a joke without knowing the punch line? If you want to build to a big climax you have to know where you are heading.

By, My Name and grade will go here