



STORYATHON

Let's Write Microstories!



Teacher Guide

USA & Canada



Over 40,000
stories created

COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

Over 3,000 classes
participating

Be part of a nation of storytellers

Storyathon provides students with an intriguing challenge to write a story in exactly 100 words.

Our aim is for **every child** to develop a passion for writing and storytelling.

"It's fun and hard at the same time because you know you have a limit of 100 words."

Student, John Calvin School

"It was so good taking part, my students loved it!"

Rosie Banfield,
Carmel College

"Oh dear, we have created word monsters! Just so exciting to hear kids discussing stories and asking opinions of others about word choice. They are so excited."

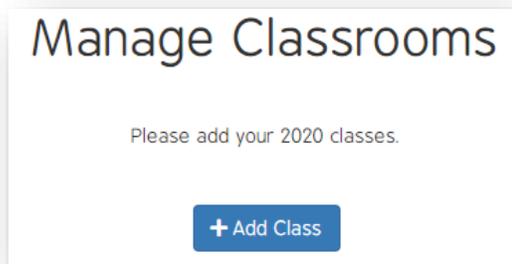
Andrea Armanasco
Calvary Christian College

90% of students are agreeing with the statement "I have enjoyed creating my microstory".

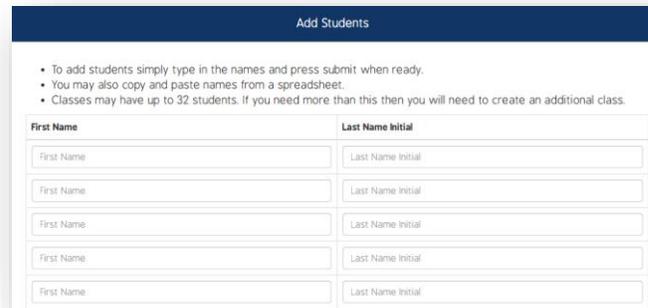
Get started in less than 10 minutes

Sign in to your teacher account and then...

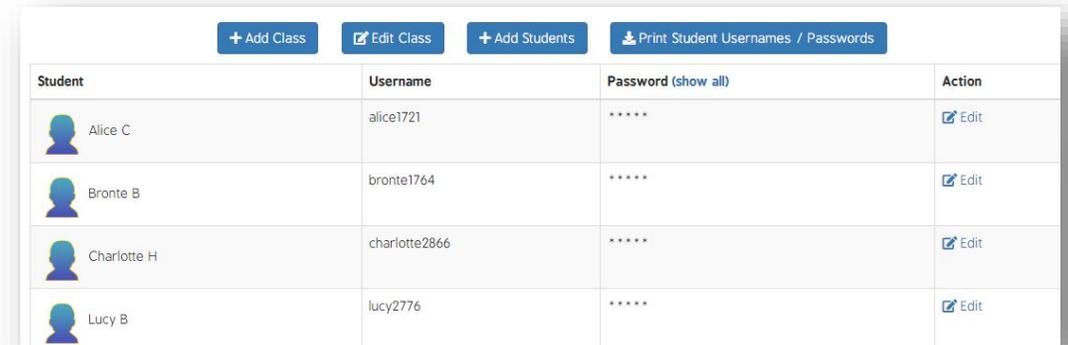
1. Add Class



2. Add Students



3. Print Student Usernames / Passwords



The screenshot shows a table with student information. At the top, there are four buttons: "+ Add Class", "Edit Class", "+ Add Students", and "Print Student Usernames / Passwords". The table has four columns: "Student", "Username", "Password (show all)", and "Action".

Student	Username	Password (show all)	Action
 Alice C	alice1721	*****	 Edit
 Bronte B	bronte1764	*****	 Edit
 Charlotte H	charlotte2866	*****	 Edit
 Lucy B	lucy2776	*****	 Edit

Your students are now ready to sign in and start creating.

Teachers and students who are using Google Classroom may sign in straight away with their Google Classroom accounts.



How Does Storyathon Work?

Every school term there is a Storyathon event which has three phases.

1. Student Writing Phase

This is where students create their stories on the given theme. Students are encouraged to write up to three stories.

2. Teacher Voting Phase

This is where the teacher selects three stories from their class (needs to be three separate students) to progress through to the finalist stage.

3. Student Voting Phase

Students come back online and are asked to select their two favourite stories from a set of six finalist stories. Students are not aware of who the author is, or what school they come from.

Many teachers comment on how incredibly valuable student voting is as a learning experience.

Student Portal

The screenshot shows the Storyathon student portal. At the top, the logo reads "STORYATHON" with the tagline "Let's Write Microstories!". Below the logo are navigation links for "Home", "Key Information", and "Logout". The user profile for "Kayla T" is visible, with a "Crazy Pet" challenge and a "Time Remaining: 57 days" indicator. There are three buttons labeled "Entry 1", "Entry 2", and "Entry 3". A "Bonus Story Mystery Prize!!" banner is also present. A central banner features cartoon animals and the text: "Your challenge is to write a story that is EXACTLY 100 words in length on the theme of Crazy Pet! Good luck and have fun!!". Below this is a "Story Title:" input field and a "Story:" text area with a rich text editor toolbar. The toolbar includes options for font style (Sans Serif), bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), text color (A), background color, and a Thesaurus icon.

Submit multiple entries

Theme for current challenge

Write story here

Bonus Story

Time Remaining for Student Writing

Thesaurus to assist word choice

Teacher Portal

Various Activities

Student Portfolio

Live feed of student stories

Add students and classes

Similar words

Class Cloud highlighting vocabulary

Crazy Pet
Time remaining: 56 days

Class Response Cloud Length Nouns Verbs Responses: 3 Total Words: 300



- Similar Words
- scrambled
 - clamber
 - climb
 - crawl
 - claw one's way
 - scrabble
 - groped one's way
 - shiny
 - struggle
 - hurry
 - scurry
 - scud
 - scutter
 - hasten
 - rush
 - race

Individual Stories (1 response(s) containing: scrambled - clear)

Previous Next Show Names

Running Amuck

Today Charlie would finally get a pet. He was excited, until his parents went outside and put a pile of green flakey grass in a cardboard box. He didn't like it one bit, but he kept it in his room. Later in the day, he heard a murmur from the cardboard box. He opened the box and suddenly thousands of strands of grass were running amuck in his room! He **scrambled** to pick the grass, as his room was already messy, but the grass started cleaning his room for him! He was flabbergasted. He started to love his new pet.

100 words

Feature

Class Review

Provides teachers with a live feed and summary of student responses.

Why?

Increases teachable moments, especially when discussing vocabulary.

Facilitates immediate collaboration and feedback within the class.

Located on the main page of the teacher portal.

Feature

Thesaurus

A thesaurus feature is contained within the student writing area.

Why?

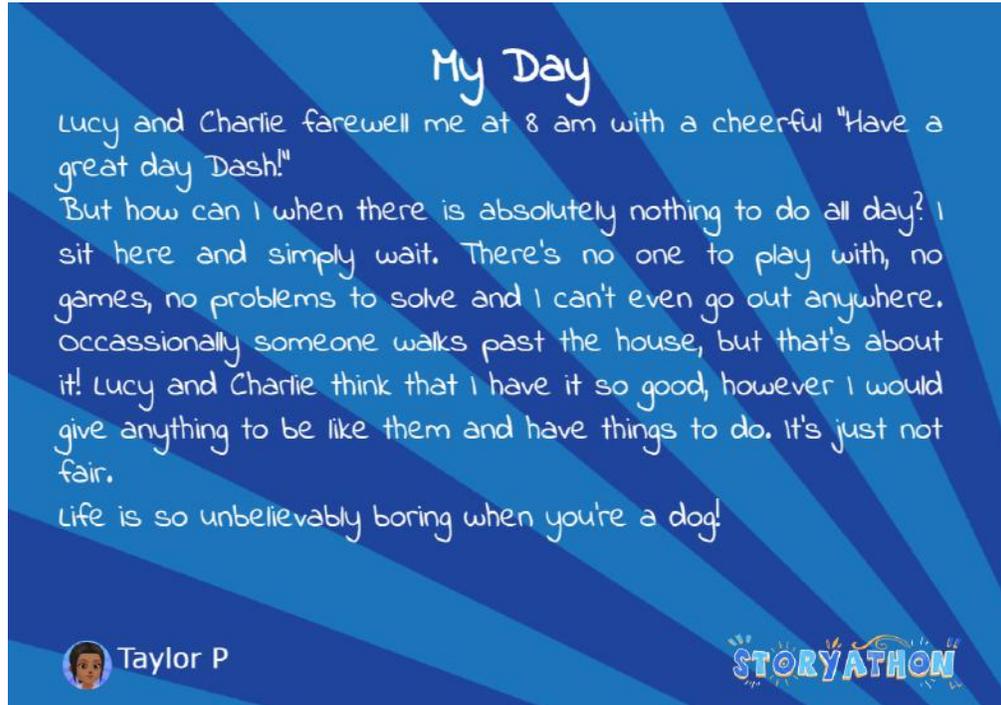
To encourage students to think carefully about word choice and to expand their vocabulary.

The screenshot shows a writing application interface. At the top, a yellow box contains the text: "Similar words to **absolutely**: completely, totally, utterly, perfectly, entirely, wholly, fully, quite, thoroughly, unreservedly, definitely, certainly, positively, unconditionally, categorically,". Below this is a toolbar with various icons for text formatting. The "Thesaurus" icon, which is a small 'I' with a star, is circled in green. Below the toolbar is a text area containing the following text: "Lucy and Charlie farewell me at 8 am with a cheerful 'Have a great day Dash!'
But how can I when there is **absolutely** nothing to do all day? I sit here and simply wait. There's no one to play with, no games, no problems to solve and I can't even go out anywhere. Occassionally someone walks past the house, but that's about it! Lucy and Charlie think that I have it so good, however I would give anything to be like them and have things to do. It's just not fair.
Life is so unbelievably boring when you're a dog!"

Located in the writing area or the student portal.

Print My Story

Refresh



Print Version
Download pdf & print

Image Version
Download jpeg

Located in both the student and teacher portals.

Feature

Print Stories

Teachers and students are able to print or download images of stories with a nice background.

Why?

Students become highly motivated if teachers create a display in the classroom or post stories on a class blog.

Wonderful work Taylor. I especially liked the surprise that the character was a dog.



- Miss Jacobs, 5 days ago



Feature

Positive Feedback

Animated emojis and dancing characters within teacher feedback.

Why?

Animated characters better enable teachers to positively frame feedback for students and this in turn increases student receptiveness to feedback.

Located in the Reports area of teacher portal.

Tips for Teachers

1. The Opening Hook

How are they going to capture their reader's attention from the outset? Ask them to be a little mysterious. Why not raise a problem? What's likely to arouse the reader's curiosity?

2. Colorful Details

Let your students know they need to share the details but be succinct with the words. How can they craft their message with less words? What word, if removed, does not affect the message?

3. Twist at the End

Talk to your students about creating the twist. The unexpected. What's the important occurrence in their story that is going to satisfy the reader that the story has finished?

Just get your students writing!

Share the theme and just get students to start jotting down ideas. Once they start, the rest will flow.

Let them know not to worry about the 100 words at the beginning. It's easy to edit and iterate later on.

Get them questioning and asking "what if?" about the topic to inspire and create new ideas, twists and unexpected events. Perhaps they can even introduce new characters!

Why not suggest they include dialogue between the characters and make the story come alive!

Talk to students about the importance of punctuation. Use it to send strong messages to the reader.

Explain to students: short sentences grab attention, long sentences create atmosphere. How can they use this knowledge to improve their message?

Enhance the opening hook and ending twist later.

Remind them not to rush. Great craftsmanship takes time. Walk away, think, edit and improve. It's a revolving process.



Microstories focus attention on important writing features such as:

the impact of just one word

great expression

effective punctuation

crafting opening and ending paragraphs

the discipline of writing precisely