

“I am an Author”
OPEN YOUR IMAGINATION!
From McGee Productions
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IDEAS FOR CREATING STORIES

When Hans Christian Andersen was a boy, he would listen as his parents and grandparents told him wonderful stories and legends. He would remember the stories and then tell them to friends and older people while they worked. He would tell the stories his own way, a little different from what he had heard. He added things to the stories to make them livelier, such as details about what the characters did and said. By doing this H. C., as his friends called him, helped his imagination grow.

HOW TO LIVEN UP A STORY

1. Add lively comparisons that people can understand to descriptions given in a story.

Example: The dog had big eyes. = The dog's eyes were as big as a mill stone.

2. Add active words that describe more details.

Example: The music filled the house. = The music rang and drifted to every corner of the house.

2. Add spoken words when a conversation is only mentioned.

Example: The witch greeted the soldier. = "Good day, young man.", said the witch. "I am glad to see a strong young soldier such as you!"

Andersen remembered the way people spoke and acted in different situations. He noticed their personalities. In his stories, H.C. imagined that everything had a life and personality: ducklings, snails, peas in a pod, even shirt collars and writing pens.

STORIES ABOUT ANIMALS AND OBJECTS

1. Give a personality to the following animals, plants, or objects. Decide how they act, what they feel, what they like and don't like. Create adventures for them to have or problems that need to be solved.

Animals:

A peacock and a roadrunner; A trout, a turtle, and a toad; A house cat and a pet monkey

Plants:

A saguaro cactus and a dandelion; An old oak tree on a hilltop

Objects:

A box of crayons; A football shoe and a ballet slipper

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