

Before you start writing, discuss this list of traits typically found in good storytelling. Look at books you are currently reading (or have recently read) to think of examples and models of each quality.

Typically, a well-told story...

- interests the reader with something exciting or emotional; finds a way to make readers care about the story being told.
- focuses on a clear, well-defined event or a series of related events.
- develops events, people, and time/place with clear details.
- puts events in order clearly.
- uses transitions/connecting words to show the sequence of events in paragraphs.
- uses description and dialogue to create characters and locations.
- describes rather than informs; shows the reader something happening rather than telling that it occurred.
- uses a clear point of view from which the story is told.

There are times that storytellers do not follow these guidelines for one reason or another, but it's a good idea to stick to these qualities unless you have a good reason for doing something different!