



**Class: VIII**

**Topic: Story Writing**

**Subject: English**

A story is basically a narrating of real or imaginary events, involving real or imaginary people. A story needs to be represented in words. Even images or movies can narrate a story. A story is generally designed to entertain, or send a message across.

The length of a written story will depend on the format, whether it is a novel, novella, short story etc.

### **Format of a Story:**

This is the basic structure one can follow to construct a story, in an understandable manner and to keep the flow of the story.

- *Beginning:* The beginning or the introduction of a story is of essential importance. This is the part where you can capture the reader's attention.
- *Character Introduction:* Good stories will depend on how well the characters are presented to the readers. To develop impressive characters, dialogues should be used. Do not include unnecessary secondary characters, every character of the story must have a purpose.
- *Plot:* Plot is where the actual narration of the story will happen. The events that occur or the description of the situation should be written in the plot. A plot must always have a twist / conflict, which is the focus of any story.
- *Climax/Conclusion:* The story should have a logical conclusion. Always end the story in an interesting manner.

Hints for writing a good story:

1. Give a suitable title to the story. You may name it after the main character, object incident or proverb/quotation.
2. Before beginning to write, create a clear idea about the plot. You must know how the story is going to unfold and ultimately end. If you can start well and end well, your story will certainly be a good one.
3. Adhere to the outline given, i.e., neither omit any point nor distort the order of the points given in the outline.
4. You may insert dialogues and monologues wherever possible. These dialogues should be short, lively and interesting.
5. Given names to characters. Even animals can have names. These names should be short and interesting.
6. Let your story not be unduly long. Adhere to the word limit.

7. The importance of the conclusion cannot be overlooked. It leaves a lasting impact on the reader.
8. Write the story in the past tense.
9. Do not use informal language. We do not write the way we speak.
10. Make sure that the story should have a moral, words of wisdom or message.

Types of story writing questions:

1. The beginning or middle of the story is given. The student is required to complete it on his own using his imagination and provide a suitable heading to it.
2. Hints of the story are given and the student is required to elaborate the hints and shape them up into a complete story, providing connectivity.
3. Outline of the story is provided and the student develops a story using the outline.

Sample Story:

1. Write a story in about 150-200 words with the following beginning and give a suitable title to it.

Rahul was alone at home. Suddenly the phone rang .....

#### Rahul's Presence of Mind

Rahul was alone at home. Suddenly the phone rang. He hesitated for a moment but then picked up the receiver. Though he said 'Hello', there was no response from the other side. He repeated 'Hello' but still no one replied from the other end. The phone rang again but this time somebody asked if his father was at home. When Rahul asked who was calling, the caller refused to identify himself and kept on asking his parents' whereabouts. When Rahul refused to answer, the line was disconnected.

After some time, the doorbell rang. As Rahul peeped through the key hole, he found a tall man with a beard outside the door. Rahul got scared and quickly ran towards the phone and called up his father's friend who lived in their colony and told him about the incident. His uncle asked him not to worry as he would reach soon. He quickly collected some other men from the neighbourhood, and with his pet dog, reached Rahul's home. The tall man was looking for a way to get into the house when Rahul's uncle's dog held his leg with its teeth. The man panicked and tried to run away but was overpowered by all the men.

Soon, the police reached Rahul's home and his parents also returned and thanked the neighbours. Everyone praised Rahul's presence of mind which saved his life.

Writing Tasks

1. Write a story based on the provided title.

‘A Lost Identity’

2. Complete the story in 150-200 words giving a suitable heading and moral.

“I stopped my scooter in front of an old and dilapidated building. A haggard, skinny old man with drooping shoulders came towards me. “Don't go in, Sir”, he whispered. “It is dangerous...”

**3. Develop stories from given outlines in not more than 150-200. Remember to give the moral of the story in the end.**

An old lady becomes blind ..... calls in a doctor ..... agrees to pay large fees if cured ..... doctor comes daily..... Starts stealing one piece of furniture daily ..... delays the cure ..... at last cures her ..... demands his fees..... lady refuses to pay, saying cure is not complete..... doctor objects lady says sight not restored as she cannot see all her furniture ..... moral.