

Name _____

Date _____

Make a Story Engaging

The **purpose of fiction** is often to entertain, and a strong voice is a key tool for engaging readers. **Voice** gives energy to your writing, creates moods, and brings characters to life. If your narrator is not one of the characters, think of the narrator as a separate character with their own unique perspective. The narrator's voice should be distinct from the voices of the characters.

Characters' personalities are revealed through their dialogue, while the narrator's "voice" is everything else—what the characters don't say or think. By using different voices, you can create a variety of moods in your story. To practice, think about how fairy tales or folk tales could be retold with new voices to make them more engaging.

Write at least two sentences you could use in a story for each of the voices below. To come up with ideas, consider retelling a well-known fairy tale or folk tale with a fresh approach.

1. Sappy: _____

2. Concerned: _____

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3. Mean: _____

4. Frightened: _____

5. Funny: _____

6. Sarcastic: _____

Choose one voice from Activity 1 and develop a paragraph using that voice. Include at least one interjection to make the voice more engaging. The answer varies.

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Make a Story Engaging – Answer Key

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Write at least two sentences you could use in a story for each of the voices below. To come up with ideas, consider retelling a well-known fairy tale or folk tale with a fresh approach.

1. Sappy:

"Oh, how wondrously beautiful the morning sun looked, spilling its golden rays over the dewdrops, each one a tiny miracle!"

2. Concerned:

"He watched her climb the crumbling wall, his heart pounding like a drum. What if she fell?"

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Make a Story Engaging – Answer Key

3. Mean:

“You actually thought you could win? That’s adorable—in a pathetic kind of way.”

4. Frightened:

“The shadows stretched longer and darker, swallowing the last bits of light. Was that a whisper, or just the wind?”

5. Funny:

“I’m not saying the chicken was smarter than me, but it sure knew which way to run while I got stuck in the mud.”

6. Sarcastic:

“Oh, yeah, that’s a brilliant idea—let’s just walk right into the dragon’s den. What could possibly go wrong?”

Choose one voice from Activity 1 and develop a paragraph using that voice. Include at least one interjection to make the voice more engaging. The answer varies.

Sarcastic Voice

“Oh, brilliant,” Max muttered as the flashlight flickered and died. “Because nothing says ‘safe and prepared’ like wandering through a haunted house with no light.” He kicked a loose floorboard, which responded with a loud creak. “Great. Now the ghosts know exactly where I am. Fantastic strategy, Max—you’re a genius.”