



Storytelling tips

Here are a few tips you can use to improve your storytelling.

Conflict and Tension

Adding tension and conflict makes stories more dramatic. Without them your story could end up just being a summary of what happens.

Conflict: Shall I go to Anne's party or Bex's party?

Tension: I must give an answer in 5 seconds time!

No Conflict or Tension: I went to Bex's party.

Have a central core to your story

Having a 'through-line' or a 'spine' to your story helps. Something to hang the meat of your story on to.

Show, don't tell

Let the audience feel something instead of describing it to them.

Use of subtext

The text is what is said. The subtext is what is left 'unsaid'. Subtext is what is 'inferred'. Implicit over explicit. What happens 'off-screen'. This can help prevent the story from becoming dull or predictable.

Keep the protagonist 'proactive' not 'reactive'

The protagonist, or your main character, comes across better if they're actively doing things instead of reacting to things. The audience is more invested in these characters.

What happens next?

What's moving the plot forward?
What keeps the audience wanting to know what happens next?

Get out early

Once a scene has said what needs to be said - get out. Otherwise you could be diluting the impact or slowing the pace of the action down.