




# WRITE WHERE YOU ARE

## EPISODE 5 - IN THE GARDEN



### Challenge 1 – Strange Seeds

You plant some strange-looking seeds and they start to grow...

- What do they grow into?
- What happens next?

Does your plant shoot up so tall you can climb it like Jack and the Beanstalk?

Does it grow to enormous size and start eating the furniture?

Does it grow into an animal or a bird?

Does it start talking? Or singing, or dancing?

What happens?

You decide.

**Write Your Story!!!!**

# SUPER-CHALLENGE (ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO TRY?)

## MAKE AN IDEAS POT

Writing stories can sometimes be a bit like planting seeds. You put an idea in your notebook, wait a while and then go back to see if it's grown.

For the next week, write down some ideas every day. You don't have to write the whole story, or even a plan for a story, just an idea. It could be as small as:

- A character to be in your story
- A place where your story might happen
- Something fun that happens

Maybe there's a subject you want to write about, in which case you can write.

*I want to write a story about food.*

or

*I want to write a story about going on holiday.*

If you're stuck for ideas, look back through this series to get you started.

Remember, when it comes to writing stories, there's no such thing as a bad idea. Nobody else is going to see your notebook, unless you show it to them, so you can write anything you like.

At the end of the week, close your notebook and put it away where you can't see it.

Wait a week, or longer if you like, then read your ideas again and see if any other ideas jump out at you. Maybe you can put two or three of your ideas together to make a story.

This is how stories grow.

Authors write their stories a lot of times before the stories become books. Once you've finished writing a story, put it away for a little while then read it again and ask yourself if anything could be better.

# LEXI REES'S DIARY CHALLENGE



## Challenge 2– A Mysterious Diary

You find a mysterious, old diary in the back of a shed. You sit down and begin to read...

- Who wrote the diary?
- What does it say?

Have you ever tried keeping a diary? They can be a lot of fun. This is a chance to write a fictional diary from someone in the past.

Think about:

Who wrote the diary?

What date and year is it?

Why is the person writing the diary? Maybe they're just doing it for fun, or maybe they have secrets they want to write down. Or some other reason entirely - you decide!

Remember, don't give everything away on the first page. It's good to keep your readers in suspense.

Lexi Rees is the author of the Relic Hunters series and creative writing books full of story ideas. She also runs an online kids' book club.

You can find her at [www.lexirees.co.uk](http://www.lexirees.co.uk)

# BONUS IDEAS

The garden is a great place for finding story ideas. If you don't have a garden, you can grow your own plants on a windowsill. Write some stories while you're watching them grow!

1. Lots of poets write about nature. Have a read of some nature poems and then write your own.
2. Write a story that begins 'The trouble started when I was in the garden...'
3. Write a story from the point of view of the insects living in a garden.
4. Have you read the book 'The Secret Garden'? Write your own story with the title 'My Secret Garden.'
5. A guessing game - choose a piece of fruit or a vegetable and write a description of it, without saying what it is. See if people can guess from your description.
6. If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be, and why?
7. Write a story set in a witch's garden.

**Good luck and have fun!**

If you've done any of the story challenges and would like to send me a picture or your work, you can find my email address on my website (remember to ask for permission first.) I will display all the work I receive.