

Writing Activity: Origin Stories

In *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge on the Run*, we eventually learn more about what makes King Poseidon act the way he does. Even though he is the villain in the story, there are details that explain how he ended up that way. This makes him a more interesting and fully developed character.

In stories, the most memorable heroes are usually not perfect and the best villains are not pure evil, but have a mix of character traits that make them complex. Villains have reasons for their bad behavior, and heroes often have character flaws to overcome. We often learn about the root of these things in a character's origin story.

Origin stories are backstories or accounts that reveal how characters became who they are now. You're going to create an original villain character and write their origin story, but in order to do that, you have to build your character's backstory first.

Writing Prompt

Write an origin story for an original character that reveals how they became a villain.

In some ways, a good villain can be a story's most important character to balance the hero out and to make the story's plot more interesting too. Writers should spend just as much time developing an interesting and complex villain for a good story.

All characters, like people, are shaped by their experiences. What were your villain's experiences in life that made them into who they are now?

Maybe your character wants to take over the world but the reason is because they never felt truly loved and just want to be recognized as being special. Whatever the details are, an origin story should reveal something about the events that happened to a character in the past that impacted how they view the world.

How do you know if you've written a good character? The reader will be hooked to know what happens next with them in the story...even if they're the villain.



Origin Story

Use your answers from your Brainstorm Activity to answer at least 3 specific details from your I Am poem to write a compelling origin story for your villain. Your goal is to make a believable and interesting villain so your story is as strong as possible.

You must address:

- Their background. Introduce your character!
- What makes your character a villain
- What your character wants in this story

