storytime™

CREATE A COVER STAR!

Storytime is turning TEN – and we want YOU to help us celebrate!

To mark this special milestone, we're asking our readers to create a character that will star on our cover! This character will also appear in a thrilling tale inspired by the winning entry in the May 2025 issue of ***Storytime***.

We know you're bursting with fantastic ideas, and we can't wait to hear them all! Who do you think should grace our cover? Do you have a favourite kind of character that you would like to see appear? What kind of tale will they star in? Share it all with us!

Picture the coolest character ever – who are they? What wild and exciting adventures do they embark on? There are no limits to your creativity, so dream big! The most imaginative and captivating idea will win, and guess what? Our talented writers and illustrators will bring your amazing idea to life! How awesome is that? Your character will become the star of our very first cover story created by YOU!

So, let your creativity flow and send us your best ideas. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

In the next pages you will find activities that will inspire your creativity. Get busy and have fun!

How to enter: Complete the questions and your illustration on the entry form on the last page of this pack. Enter all your details and email your entry to **win@storytimemagazine.com** or post it to: **Cover Star Competition, Storytime, 61 Bridge Street, Kington, Herefordshire HR5 3DJ, UK** by 30th November 2024.

For full T&Cs visit **www.storytimemagazine.com/star**

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CREATE A COVER STAR!

10 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER!



To help you create a cool and unique character we've put together these questions to spark your imagination and get those creative juices flowing. They will help you get to know your character. Complete them all before moving on to the drawing pages!

1 **WHAT** ARE THEY?

2 **WHERE** DO THEY LIVE?

3 **WHEN** DO THEY EXIST?

4 **WHAT** IS THEIR FAVOURITE FOOD?

5 **WHAT 3 WORDS** DESCRIBE THEIR LOOK?

6 **WHAT 3 WORDS** DESCRIBE THEIR PERSONALITY?

7 **WHO** IS THEIR BEST FRIEND?

8 **WHAT** ARE THEY SCARED OF?

9 **WHAT** IS THEIR FAVOURITE ACTIVITY?

10 **WHAT** IS THEIR BIG CHALLENGE?

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CREATE A COVER STAR!

10 TOP TIPS FOR DRAWING CHARACTERS

We've got 10 fantastic drawing tips for you to follow! Use these tips to think about all the details that will make your character truly unique. Grab your paper, take your time, and get those coloured pencils ready to bring your creation to life. Let's get started!



1 CHOOSE A SHAPE!

Characters' bodies are often based around a simple shape that makes them easy to recognise. You can start with basic shapes like squares and circle or try more 'organic' ones like a pear or a bean. Doodle them until one feels right to you!

2 THE EYES HAVE IT!

A lot of a character's personality is shown by their eyes. Are they big and cute or small and squinty? Try drawing different eyes to work out which ones work best for your character. Add some eyebrows for extra-expressive looks!

3 CHOOSE COLOURS!

A colour scheme helps your character stand out! Choose two or three colours that look good together and use them to colour in most of your character.

4 ADD A DETAIL!

Choose something unique about their look make them special. Do they have a crazy haircut or a accessory? What looks cool and fun?

5 WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET!

If your character is strong, make them look big and powerful. If they like flying planes, they might wear a scarf or flying goggles!

6 CHOOSE A POSE!

The way a character stands (or sits or jumps!) tells you a lot about what they are like. Choose a pose that is cool and suits their personality.

7 EXPRESSIVE DOES IT!

A character's facial expression says a lot about what they are feeling – are they worried, excited or calm? The eyes, eyebrows and mouth work together to create a facial expression!

8 USE THUMBNAILS!

We don't mean the thumbnails on your hands! 'Thumbnails' are little sketches on a spare piece of paper. This is a quick way to try out different poses and ideas. Do as many as you like!

9 USE A PENCIL!

Sketch with a pencil first so you can rub things out and try again if a drawing isn't working!

10 IS IT READY?

Now sketch your final idea to the entry form and add all the colour and details that will appear on the final cover!

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CREATE A COVER STAR!

10 IDEAS FOR YOUR COVER STAR'S STORY



There are ideas to stretch your imagination when creating your characters and what they will be doing, where will they be going and who they hang around with! What will the story be about? Think about it with a little help from us!

1. **HOW DO THEY SEE THE WORLD?** Does your character have a positive attitude, or are they sometimes scared or negative? This changes how they act when they face challenges or new situations!
2. **CAN THEY KEEP A SECRET?** Characters can have a secret can have an aura of mystery. What would it be?
3. **UNEXPECTED ALLIES OR FOES!** Someone from the character's past could appear. Who are they, and what will they do?
4. **A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT!** Does the character have a certain favourite object or piece of clothing? What is it, and could it become important in the story?
5. **FLAWS AND WEAKNESSES!** Perfect characters are *boring!* Give your cover star some weaknesses or problems that they have to overcome, as this makes them easier for readers to relate to them.
6. **WHAT IS THEIR BACKGROUND?** Where do they come from, and what is their family like?
7. **IMAGINE A BACKSTORY!** A *backstory* is what happened to the character before the story starts. Think of something interesting!
8. **WHO IS THEIR OPPONENT?** Who do they compete against? Why are they rivals?
9. **WHO IS THEIR HERO?** Who do they want to be like? It could be a teacher, a family member or someone famous!
10. **HOBBIES!** What does your cover star like to do when they *aren't* being the main character in a story?

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CREATE A COVER STAR!

10 THUMBNAIL IDEAS TO SKETCH!



Ready to bring your character to life? We've got ten awesome poses and expressions to try when sketching your for your hero. Use the boxes below to quickly draw each pose and see which one fits your character best.

1 A happy face!

2 An expression of determination!

3 A surprised look!

4 A winning smile!

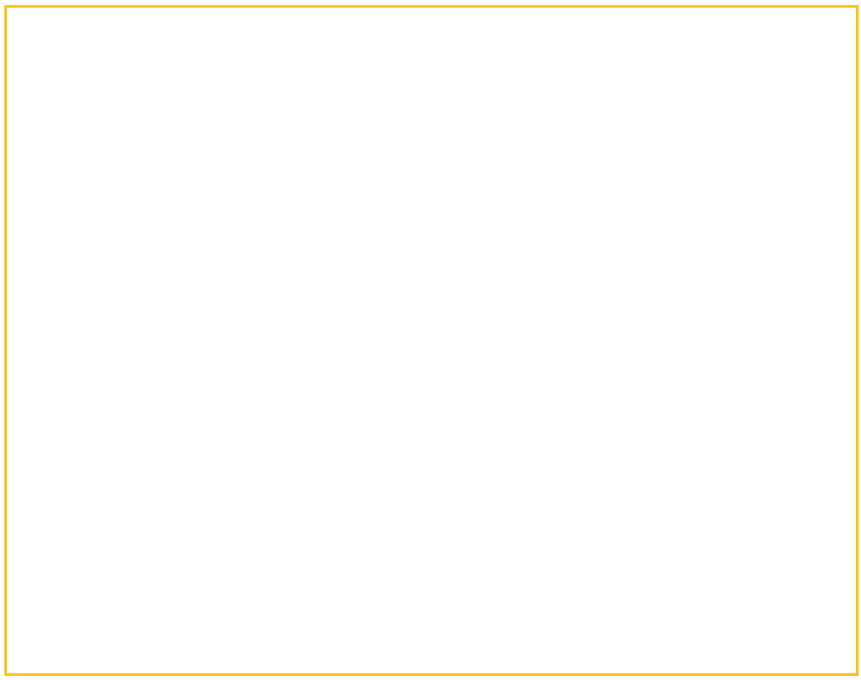
5 A hero's pose!

Continued on the next page...

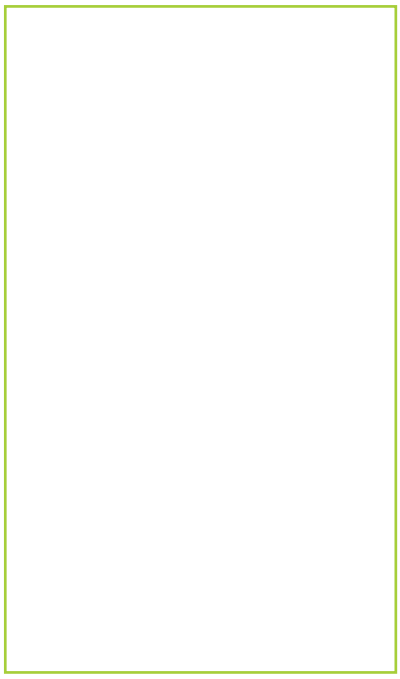
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CREATE A COVER STAR!

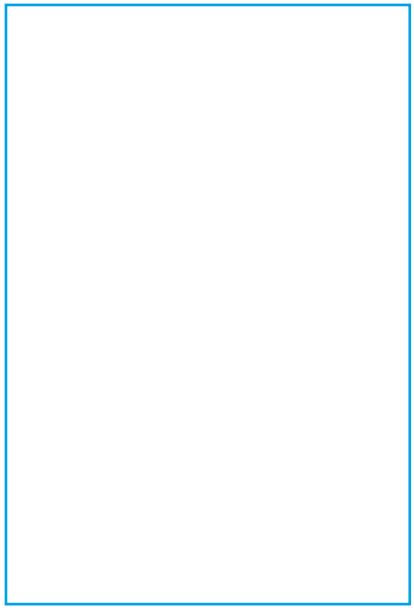
10 THUMBNAILS IDEAS TO SKETCH!



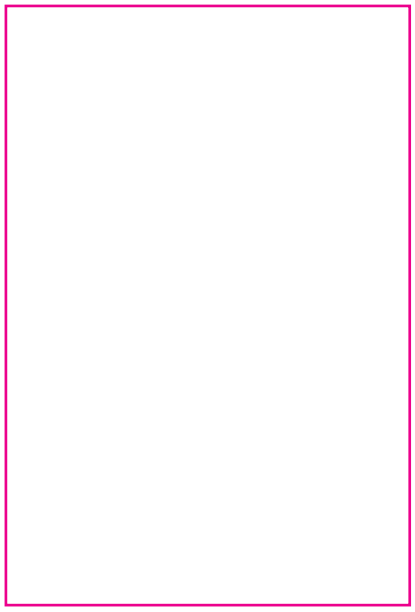
6 Jumping for joy!



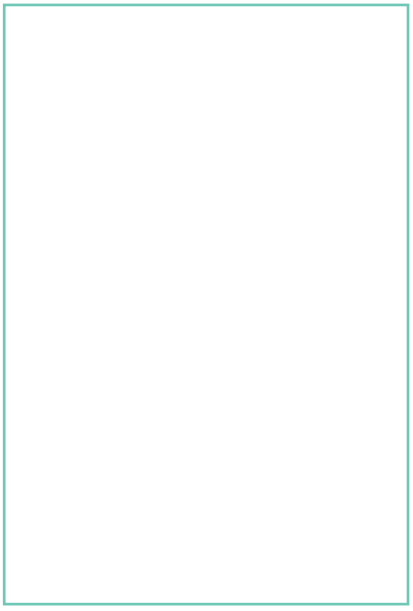
7 Cool hairdo!



8 Hands or claws!



9 Feet or paws!



10 A close-up of their face!

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Storytime™ ENTRY FORM

FILL IT IN!

WHAT IS YOUR CHARACTER'S NAME? _____

WHO (OR WHAT!) ARE THEY? _____

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THEM? _____

WHICH THREE WORDS DESCRIBE THEM BEST? _____

WHERE DO THEY LIVE? _____

SKETCH THEM HERE!

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CREATE A COVER STAR COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

FULL NAME AND AGE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER'S EMAIL*: _____

* So we can contact you if you win – please note that we do ***not*** share data!