

My
Best

BBC
500
WORDS
2023

500 Words story

A guide with all the help
you need to create your
story for BBC 500 Words

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OXFORD

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The story of you

**Every story has an author
and for this story it's you!**



Stick a photo or draw a picture of yourself here.



Now tell the reader a bit about yourself.

I live in... _____

These are some of my favourite things... _____

**Have you read an amazing book?
Do you have a favourite author?**

My favourite book is... _____

My favourite author is... _____

I like stories about... _____



Short story ideas

**Want to write a great short story?
Find an idea! Look around for an
unusual object.**



A fantastic find

Draw a picture of the object here.

Now plan your story.

Who found it?

Where?

What is it used for?

Who is looking for it?

Does it hold a secret?

Choose your characters

Every story needs a star. This could be a daring superhero or even a wicked villain.



a robot

a girl

a unicorn

an alien

a boy

a mouse



Draw your character here



Describe your character.

My character's name is...



My character looks like...



My character is good at...



My character's greatest fear is...



Circle three words that you think best describe your character.

helpful
kind
brave
brainy
silly

scared
mean
bossy
clumsy
loud

quiet
inventive
greedy
sneaky
chatty

shy
tall
tiny
magical
shiny



Set the scene

A great story can be set anywhere.

Perhaps it might start in your school or your living room and then your character could travel to an unexpected place, like another planet, or get sucked into a video game!

Why not choose one or more of these locations for your story?

Planet X

Underwater world

Science lab

football field

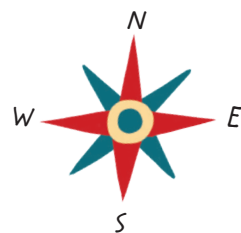
Egypt

Battle One game world



My Map

Draw a map showing the important places in your story. Draw a dotted line between different places to show the journey your character takes in the story.





Fun with words



You need to pick the perfect words to tell your story. You could use a thesaurus, be creative with the words you choose or invent your own vocabulary.



Vocabulary inventor

Blending different words together can help you to add interesting ideas and characters to your story.

bull + fox = **buffox**

hullabaloo + balloon = **hullaballoon**

beard + cardigan = **beardigan**

scamp + vampire = **scampire**



Get blending!

_____	+	_____	=	_____
_____	+	_____	=	_____
_____	+	_____	=	_____
_____	+	_____	=	_____

Choose your title

Now you need to create a title for your story that grabs the reader's attention.

Is your story a mystery or an adventure? You could include a word that tells the reader what kind of story it is.

Mystery

Adventure

Love

Creepy

Detective

Spy

Will you name your hero or your villain in the title?

Will your title include the name of the place where your story happens?

Now write your title...

How I Learned How To Tidy My Room
and Accidentally Saved the Human Race

The Painted People Mystery

The Island of Forgetting

Start your story

There are lots of different ways of starting a story. Here are some opening lines to get your story going.

I looked in the mirror
and saw . . .



I didn't want to go . . .

It started like a
normal day . . .

'Stop!' he screamed.
'If you open that . . .

BANG! The explosion
rocked the spaceship . . .

Dear diary . . .

Once upon a time . . .

Now you have your big idea. Let's get started...



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 12 horizontal grey lines.



What happens next

Every story has a beginning, a middle and an end. A great story needs some twists and turns to keep readers glued to their seats.

What problem does your character face? Do they need to get somewhere or find something? What obstacle might be put in their way? What can they do? How can they get help?



Fix the glitch to find your way out of the game.

Travel back in time to return Queen Elizabeth's stolen tiara.

Help the witch who has lost her wand.

Plan the middle of your story.

Problem: My character's problem is...



Problem solved: My character solves this by...



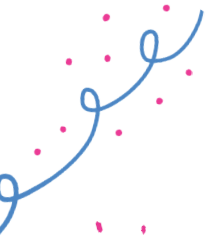
Obstacle: The obstacle that gets in my character's way is...



Obstacle overcome: My character gets past this obstacle by...



Now write the middle of your story.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal grey lines on a white background.



The End

**A great story needs a great ending.
Take a look at how these endings
wrap the story up.**



A detective dog solves
the mystery of the
missing bone.

A brainy kid uploads
a virus to defeat a
robot army.



The shyest girl
in school wins the
talent show.



A frightened ghost
learns how to
be scary.

An explorer finds
the buried treasure.



A scientist shrinks the
world to defeat alien
invaders.



How could you end your story?

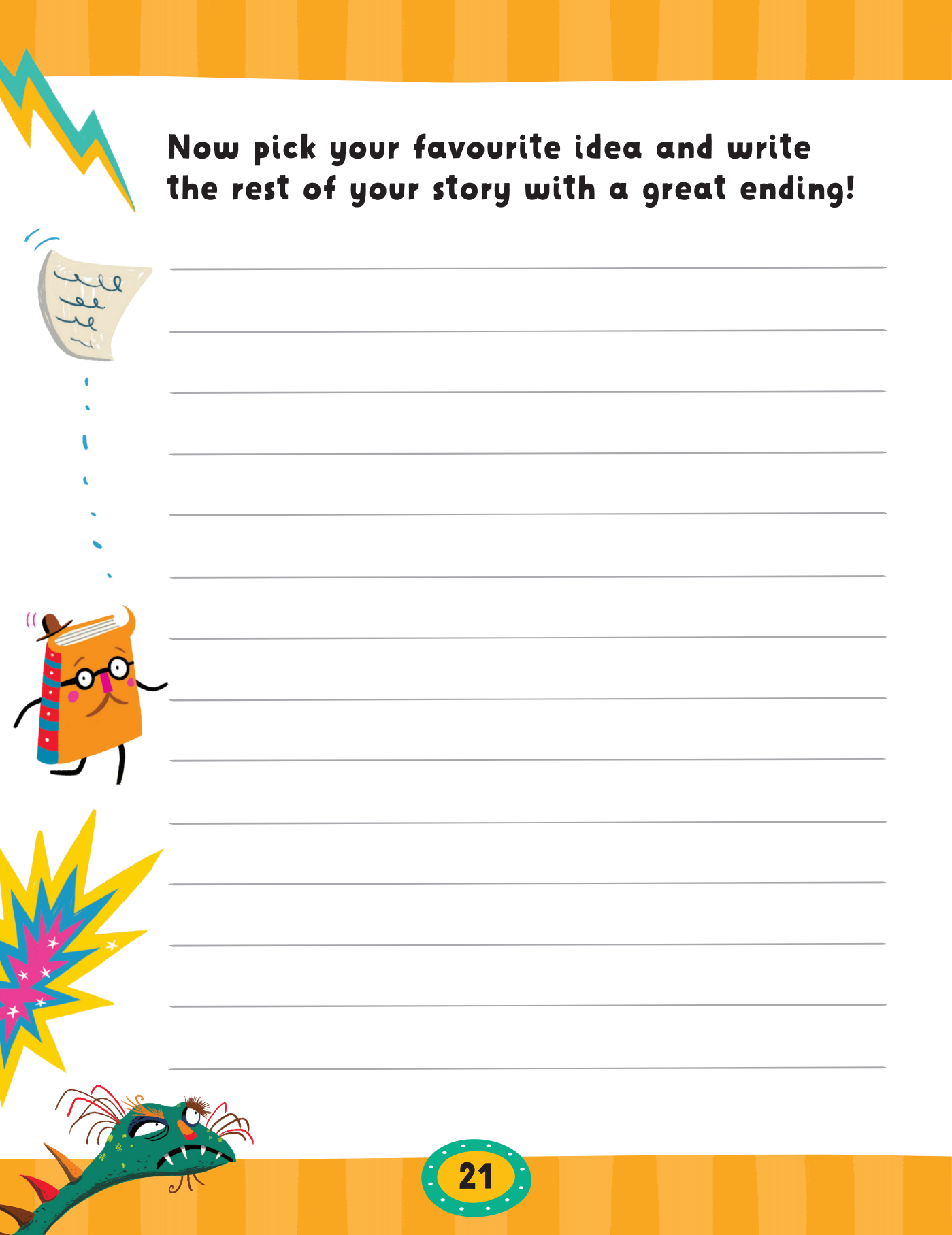
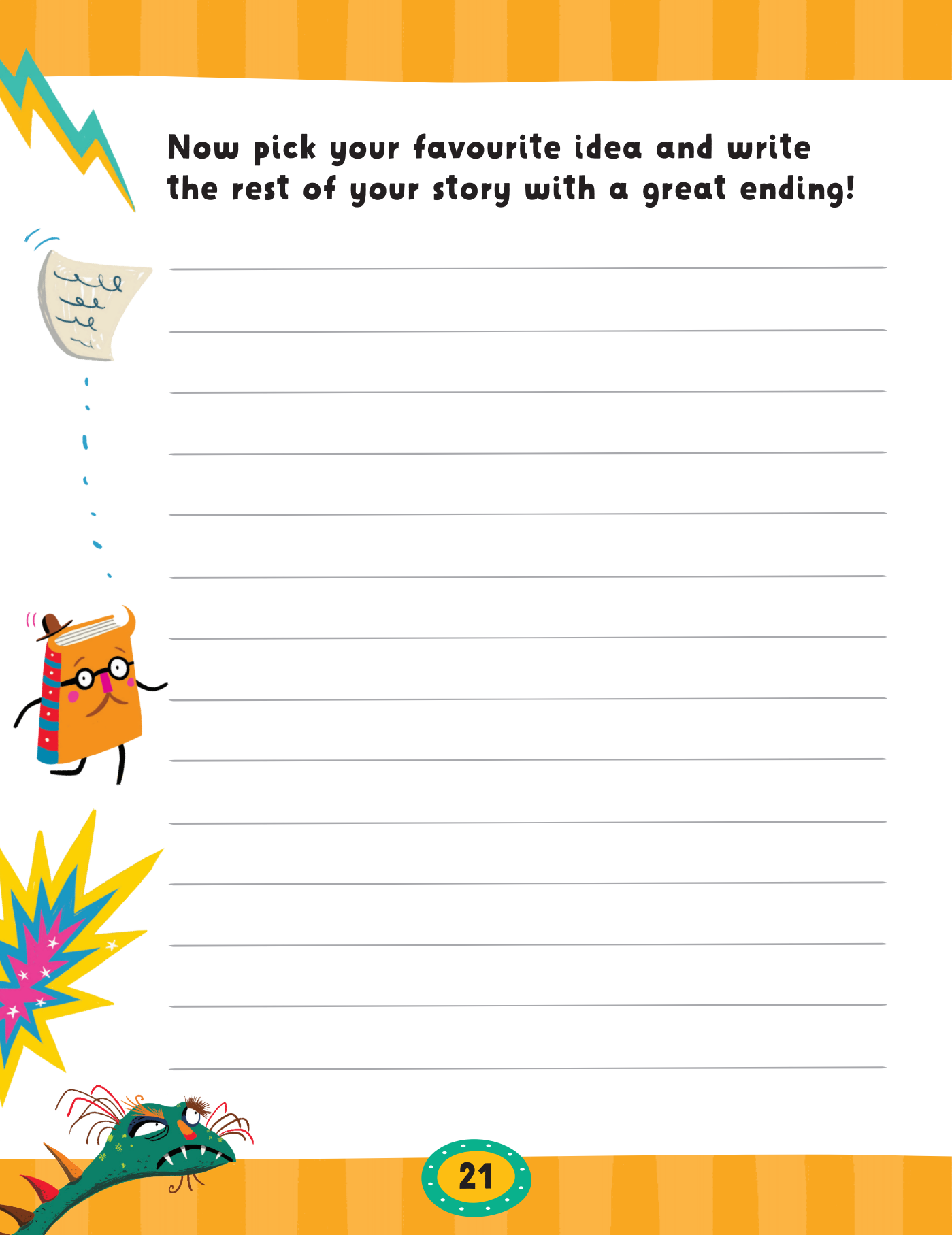
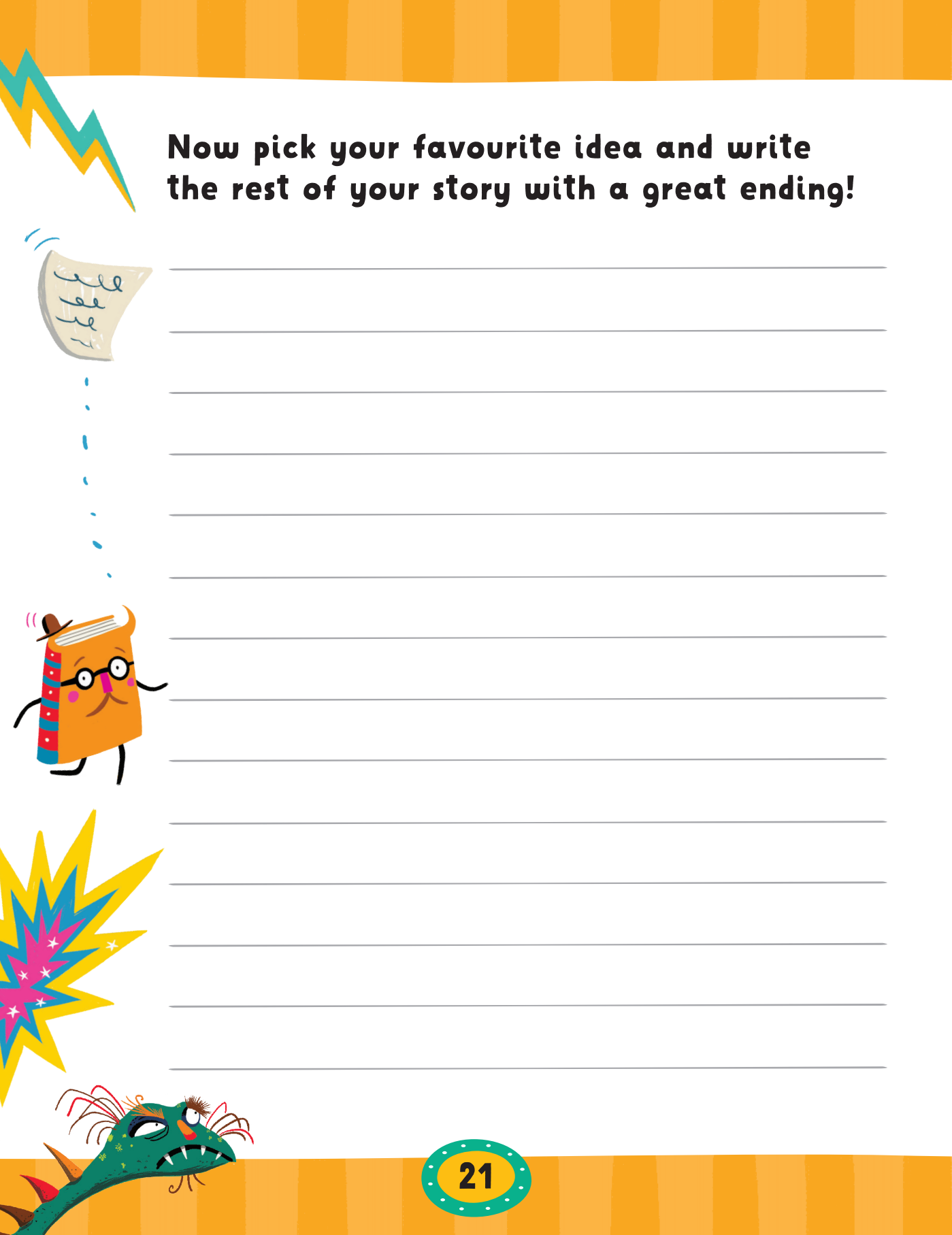
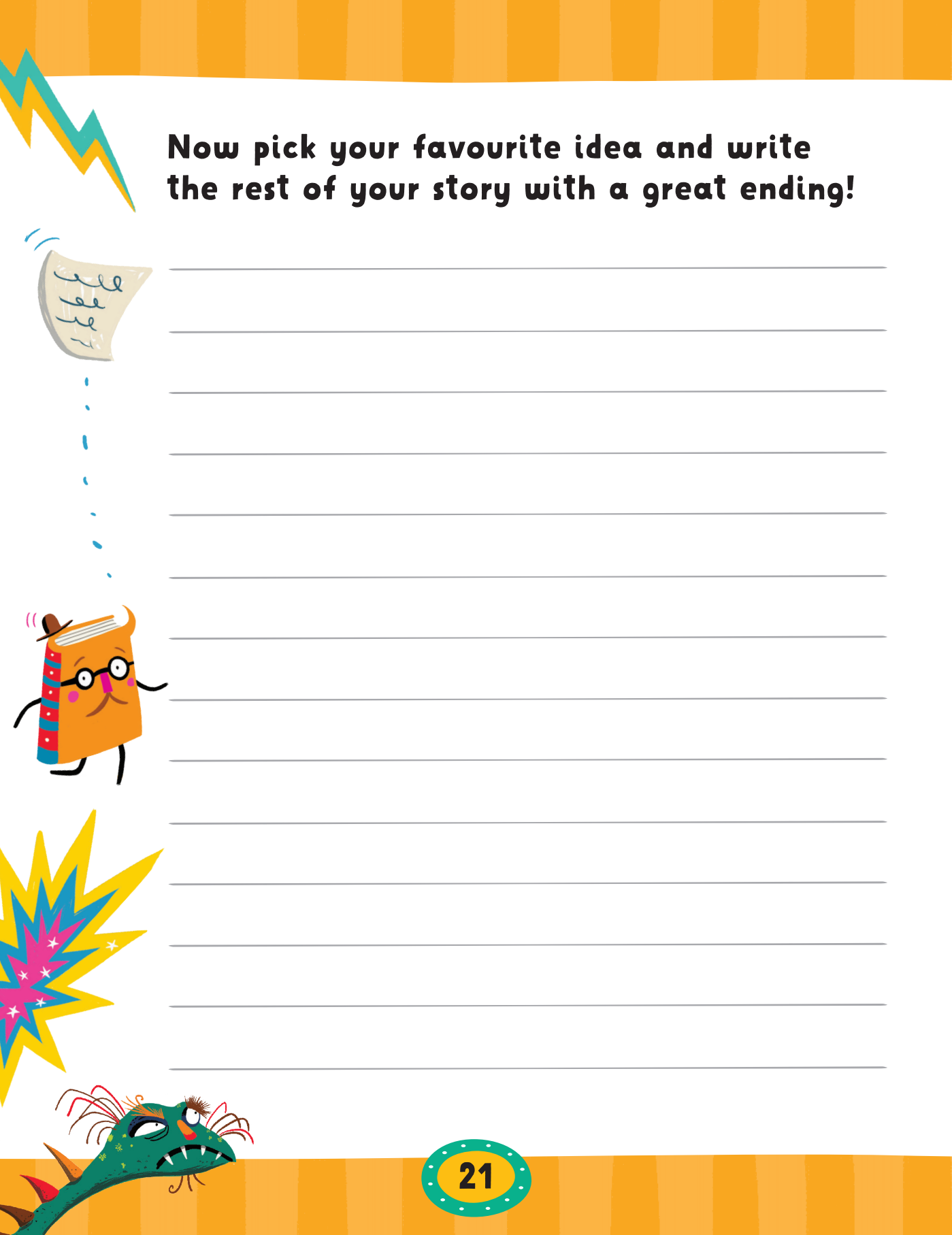
Idea 1

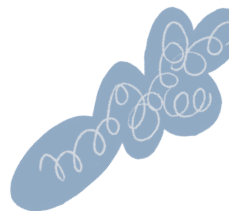
Idea 2

Idea 3

Idea 4







Edit your story

You might have finished writing your story, but is it the best it can be?

Does it all
make sense?

Did you use the
best words in your
descriptions?

Have you counted the
words in your story?
Is it under 500?

Have you read through
your story?

Use the **story doctor checklist** to help you make your story even more awesome. You could get a friend or family member to complete this checklist after reading your story or just fill it in yourself.



Story doctor

Does the opening of the story grab your attention?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Say why: _____

What's your favourite part of the story? Do you have one Yes ☐ No ☐

Say why: _____

Do you have a favourite word or phrase in the story? Yes ☐ No ☐

Say why: _____

Did you find any parts of the story confusing? Yes ☐ No ☐

Say why: _____

Do you like the ending? Yes ☐ No ☐

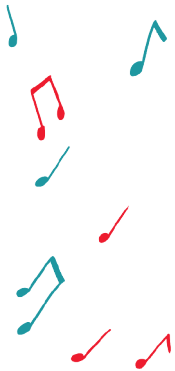
Say why: _____

What would make the story better? Any ideas? Yes ☐ No ☐

Say why: _____

My best 500 Words story!

Now it's time to bring your beginning, middle and end together to write your best story for **BBC 500 Words**. Once it's ready, ask an adult to help you submit your story at **bbc.co.uk/500words**



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal grey lines on a white background.





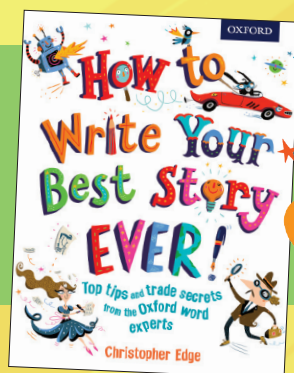


- - x THE END x - -

Well done! What's your next big idea?



For more
story-writing
ideas see



Age 7+



Also available:

Age 8+



Age 10+



www.oxfordschooldictionaries.com

Ask your teacher, parent or
guardian to go to:



bbc.co.uk/500words

to submit your story





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