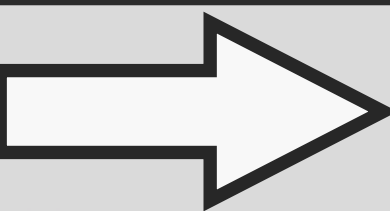


The Hero's Journey

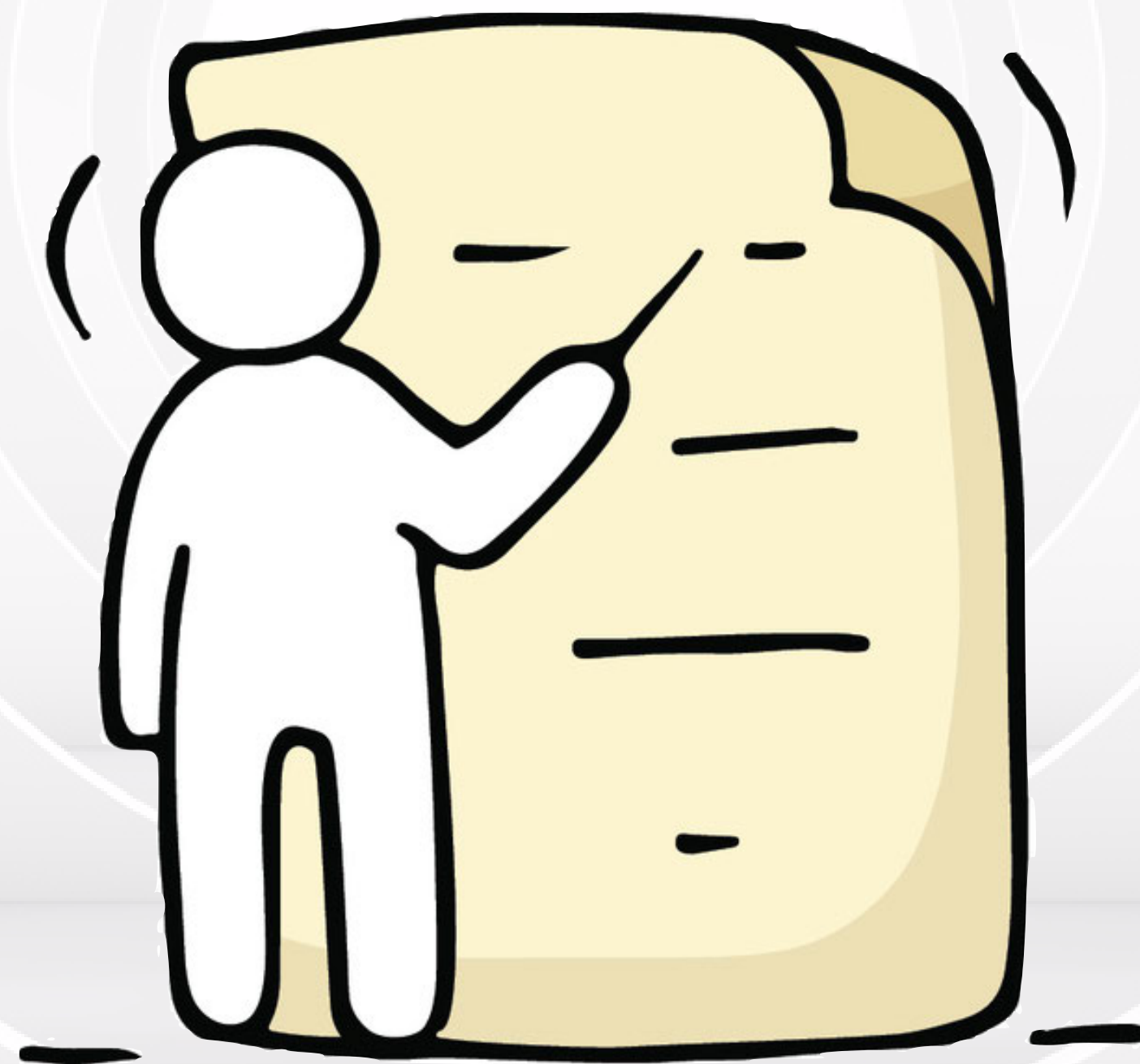


Learning Objective:

To be able to write a story from a plan.



Get out your plot plan and read through it carefully to remind yourself of everything that happens in your story.



Today, you are going to be writing the first draft of your story. Very few authors write a great story in the first draft. The idea is to get the story down on paper first, then you can go back through the story to make it better when you edit it.



Here is what some famous authors have said about first drafts...

“Good stories are not written. They are rewritten.”

Phyllis Whitney

“To become a proper writer, you have to forgive yourself the catastrophe of the first draft.”

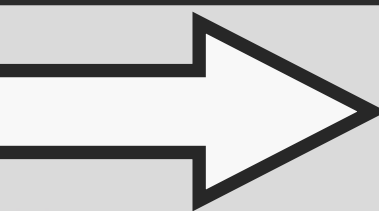
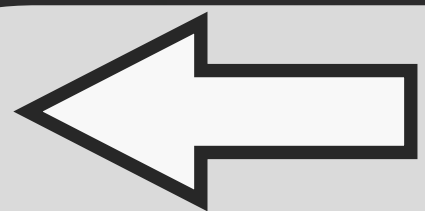
Alain de Botton

“The first draft is just you telling yourself the story.”

Terry Pratchett

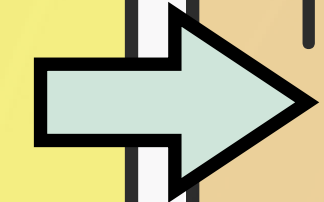
The aim of your first draft is to just get the whole story down on paper. Don't let yourself get bogged down in finding the perfect word, or wondering where your apostrophes should go; these are things you can tackle later in the edit.

By now, you know where your story is going, you know who is involved in your story and you know where your story takes place. When you write your first draft, you have to bring all of this to life. To do this, you need to let your creativity flow!



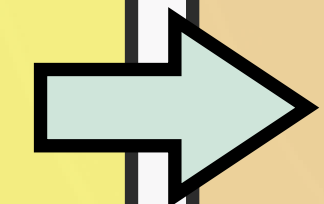
Having said that, there are a few things you should keep in mind when you're writing your first draft. One of the most effective story-writing tools is to **show not tell**. Have a look at these examples...

Holly was cold.



Holly pulled her scarf more tightly around her neck and rubbed her gloved hands together.

Gabriel was really nervous.



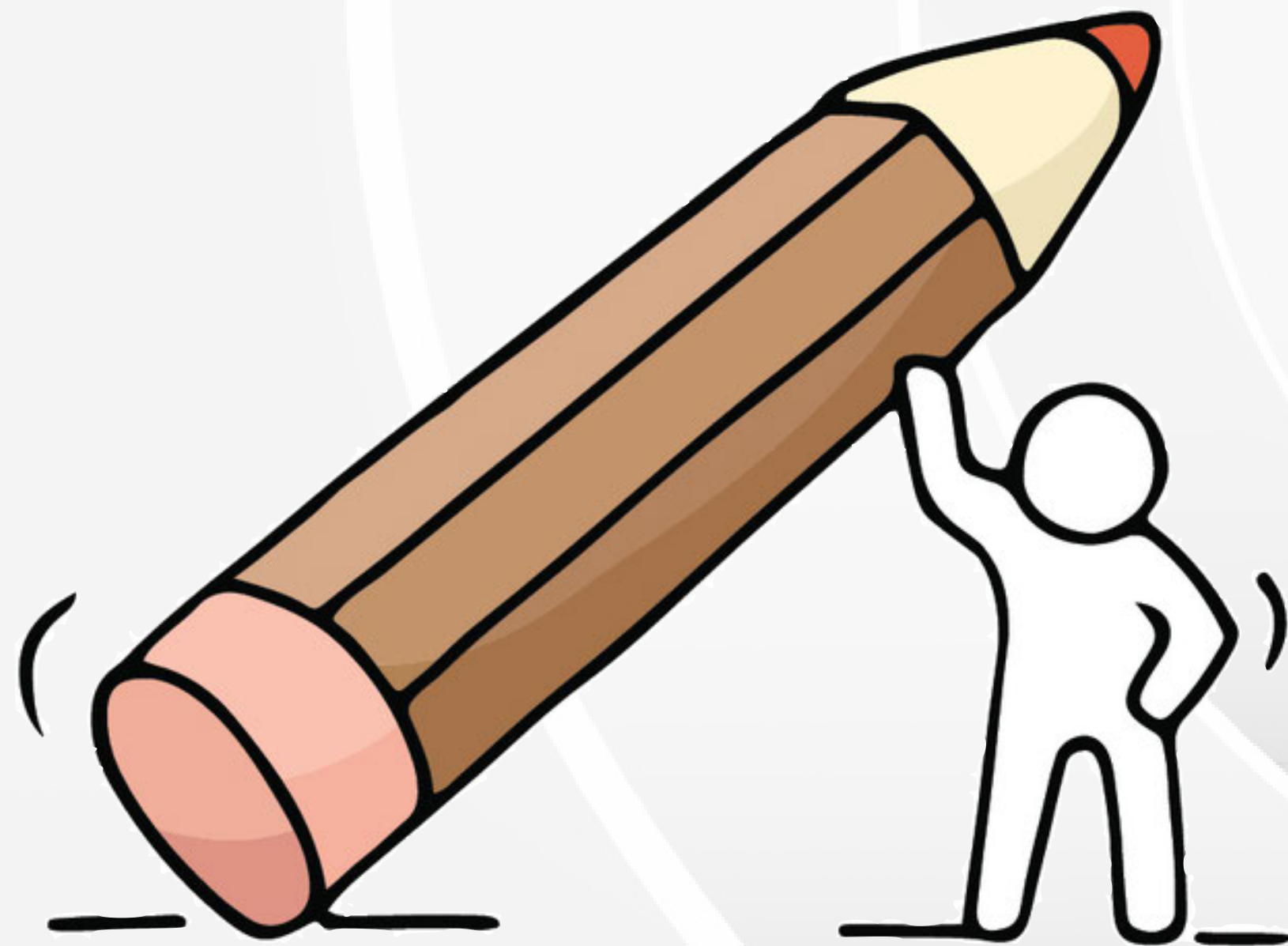
Butterflies fluttered in Gabriel's stomach and his palms started to sweat.

How are the second sentences different to the first ones?



There are ways you can **show** the reader what's happening or how someone is feeling without having to explicitly **tell** them.

Callum was really
excited.



Can you write a sentence that
shows the reader Callum was excited,
instead of telling them?

When writing a first draft, it's a good idea to write double-spaced. This means writing on one line, then missing a line, then writing on the next line. This makes it easier for you to annotate your work when you come to edit it, or when you make a mistake you want to correct.

Write double spaced to that you can

easily make edits once you have

finished your first draft. You'll be

glad that you did.

Write double spaced to that you can

^{changes}

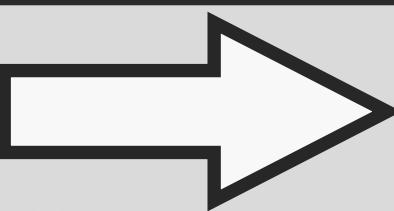
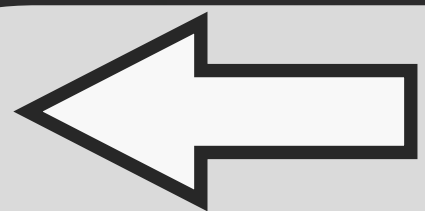
easily make ~~edits~~ once you have

^{fantastic}

finished your first draft. You'll be

^{really}

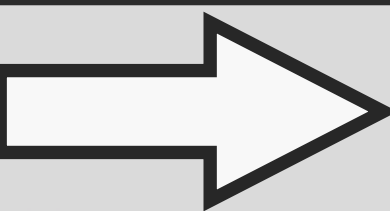
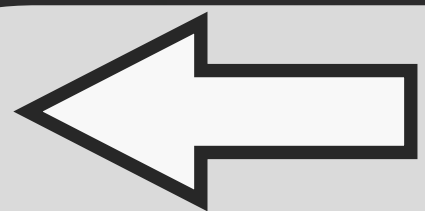
glad that you did.



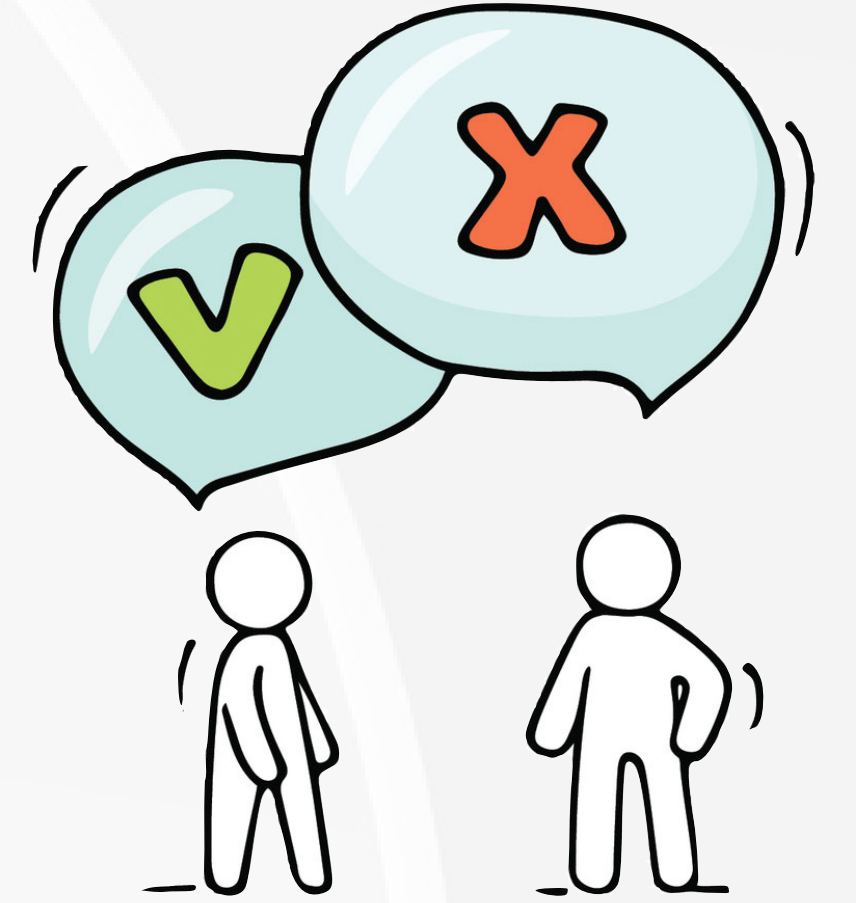
But the most important thing of all when you're writing your first draft is to **just keep writing**. Even if you think what you're writing is awful, or everyone else is writing more than you, or you feel like your story will never be good enough, **DON'T BELIEVE IT!**



Don't let your inner critic make you think that your story is not good. Your story is yours – you are the only one in the world who can write it so make sure you just keep going even if you feel like you aren't doing a good job. Push through when things get tough by just continuing to write until you get to the end. Remember, no one needs to read your first draft but you!

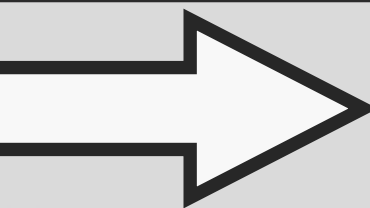
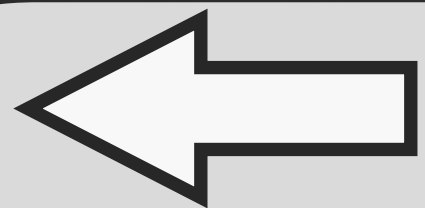


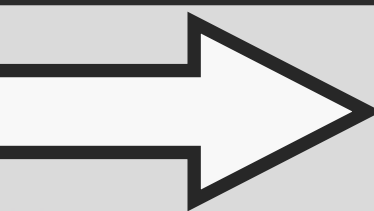
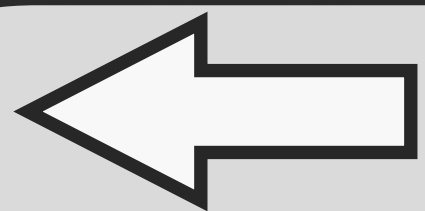
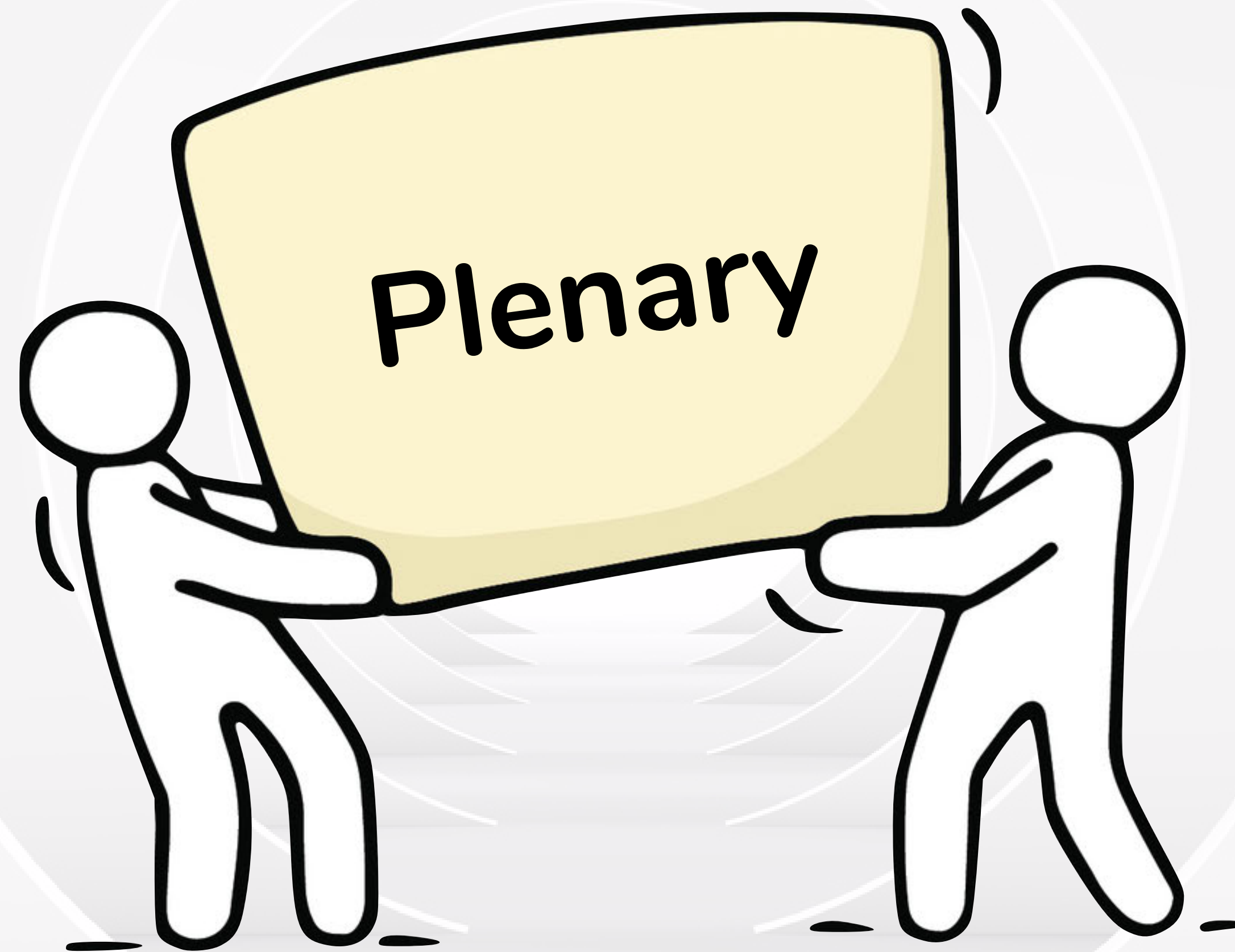
Story writing dos and don'ts



- DO show don't tell
- DO write double-spaced
- DO refer back to your plan
- DO keep writing!
- DON'T let yourself get caught up in vocabulary and grammar at this stage
- DON'T doubt yourself
- DON'T try to get it perfect first time
- DON'T worry about how much you are writing

Are you ready to go and write your story?





Having a short, simple **précis** (summary) of your story can help draw readers in and get them keen to read your story. Have a look at this example:

Tom has to find the golden treasure but time is running out. Can he find what he seeks before the evil Captain Jugger, or will his mission be thwarted?



Can you write a **two-sentence précis** like this one (where the second sentence is a question) to hook readers onto your story?