

# FIRST STORY

## TEACHING RESOURCES



**“I’m sort of just  
throwing out as many  
ideas as possible”**

**JAVID REZAI**  
SCREENWRITER



**INSIDE the  
WRITER'S MIND**

# STIMULUS



You are going to put your own unique twist on a classic fairy tale!

Pick a fairy tale that you know well. What happens in it? What part of the story do you like best?

# IDEATION

- 1 Pick an important scene from the story. Write down 10 different ways in which the action could have happened differently eg. perhaps the protagonist (the main character) is different in some way; or another character responds differently to the protagonist; maybe the outcome of an action goes in a different direction; or another character shows up unexpectedly. What if the world of the characters is different?
- 2 Now write down 10 more ideas for how this scene could be different to the original. At this stage, there are no bad ideas or wrong answers. If you're feeling really creative, do 10 more!

# EDITING

- 1 In small groups, read each person's script out loud. Assign one person to read the directions, and others can play each character.

Can everyone picture the scene in their heads? Are there any actions missing, and do any parts not link up? Does the dialogue sound good?

- 2 Rewrite afterwards and repeat until the scene makes sense.





# RESOURCE AUTHOR

FIRST STORY  
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This resource is by Dan Simpson, an accomplished writer, performer, producer, educator, and First Story Writer-in-Residence.

Dan has been Poet-in-Residence at Glastonbury Festival, Waterloo Station, National Trust Stowe, Imperial College London, and St Albans Cathedral. His two collections of poetry are *Applied Mathematics* and *Totally Cultured* (Burning Eye Books).

Dan delivers primary and secondary school classes around the UK. He also runs both creative writing and professional development sessions for adults.

Find out more at [dansimpsonpoet.co.uk](http://dansimpsonpoet.co.uk).



## DAN'S RECOMMENDED READING

**Save the Cat!**  
by Blake Snyder

**Story: Substance, Structure, Style, and the Principles of Screenwriting**  
by Robert McKee

**The Screenwriters Bible**  
by David Trotter

**This resource is one of six published in 2022 by First Story, in partnership with BBC Teach.**

**These resources complement a new collection of short films about creative writing, *Inside the Writer's Mind*, produced by BBC Teach.**

**Featuring fantastic contemporary writers and packed with tips and insights, discover all eight of the films among the English Literature resources on the BBC Teach website, [here](#).**

**Explore all six of our accompanying free resources at [firststory.org.uk/bbc-teach](https://firststory.org.uk/bbc-teach).**

# FIRST STORY

England's leading creative writing charity for young people, equipping students with the confidence and skills to tell their own stories.

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