

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Sean E Avery is a primary art teacher, author-illustrator, and designer born in South Africa; living in Perth, Western Australia. Nationally, he's best known as the creator of best-selling children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Frank's Red Hat*.

His picture book, *Happy as a Hog Out of Mud*, won the 2022 WAYRBA Picture Book of the Year Award and *Frank's Red Hat* won the 2023 CBCA Shadow Judges and WAYRBA Picture Book of the Year awards and was shortlisted for the 2023 Indie, Taco and CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award. His books have been translated into Arabic, Mandarin, French, Korean, German and Danish. Sean's new graphic novel series, *Ducky the Spy*, published by Walker Books Australia, is being released in April (book 1) and September (book 2) 2024.

In his previous artistic career, Sean was a sculptor who used CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections worldwide. His sculptures have been featured in publications like Ripleys Believe It Or Not!, The Huffington Post, and Kid's National Geographic to name a few. He represented Australia in the 2014 Waste To Art Exhibition in Baku, Azerbaijan where he built sculptures with other international artists from all around the world.

Sean currently works as the art specialist at Carnaby Rise Primary School where he has set an impressive standard for his visual art programme. His students have won many prestigious awards for creativity such as the Shaun Tan Art Award and CBCA WA Make Your Own Storybook competition. He organises annual community events, art shows and runs PD for art teachers in Metro WA. He has also established a small publishing imprint at the school that publishes one student book a year that is professionally produced and sold to raise money for the P&C.

## **PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS**

Sean is a primary school teacher employed by the WA Department of Education. He has over 10 years of experience teaching children from PP - 6, so is able to present to or run workshops with any group of primary-aged children. His picture books are suitable for PP - 2 students and his graphic novels are suitable for 3 - 6 students.

**He is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and school holidays for presentations and workshops in 2024:**

**Bookings are now closed for 2024.** Join Sean's mailing list at [seaneavery.com](http://seaneavery.com) to receive updates on when 2025 bookings open.

# LITERARY ACCOLADES

## ALL MONKEYS LOVE BANANAS

(PB, Fremantle Press)

- Currently in its seventh print run
- Over 100,000 copies sold worldwide
- Translated into Mandarin and Arabic for sale in foreign markets
- Distributed to every kindergarten-aged child in Western Australia through the State Library's Better Beginnings reading program from 2016 to 2021

## HAPPY AS A HOG OUT OF MUD

(PB, Larrikin House)

- Winner of the 2022 WAYRBA Picture Book of the Year Award

## FRANK'S RED HAT

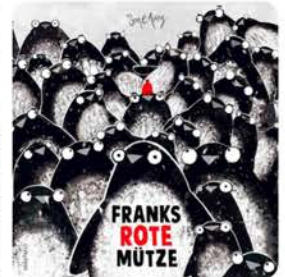
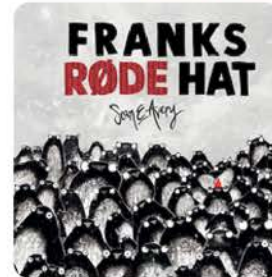
(PB, Walker Books Australia)

- Over 50,000 copies sold worldwide
- Winner of the 2023 CBCA Shadow Judge's Picture Book of the Year Award
- Winner of the 2023 WAYRBA Picture Book of the Year Award
- Shortlisted for the 2023 Indie, Taco and CBCA Picture Book of the Year Awards
- Translated into German, Korean, Danish, and French for sale in foreign markets
- The number one bestselling children's book in Australia in August 2023 on Booktopia.com (Australia's largest online bookstore)
- Adapted as a stage musical by Meerkat productions that toured Australian school in 2023

## FRIENDLY BEE AND FRIENDS

(GN, Walker Books Australia)

- Shortlisted for the 2024 WAYRBA Junior Reader Book of the Year award
- Named The Guardian's Best Graphic Novel Series in 2023



 **Books+Publishing**  
BOOK BUZZ

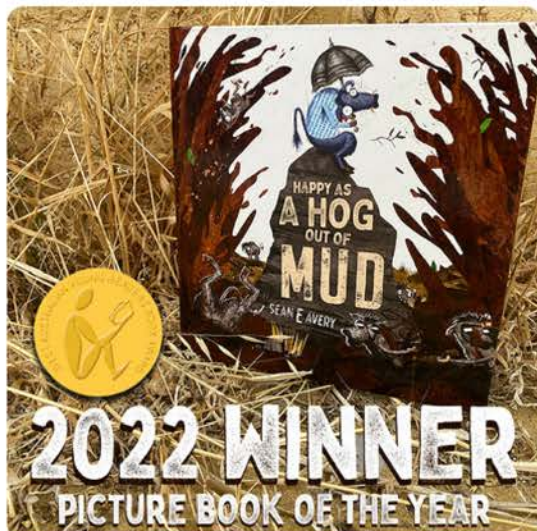
**AUSTRALIA'S OWN JON KLASSEN**

Book Buzz is a promotional newsletter supported by the publishers  
[VIEW FULL NEWSLETTER](#)

A delightfully charming and cheekily dark picture book about staying true to yourself and creating things that make you happy.



Frank is a penguin with ideas. Mostly terrible ones. That's why his fellow penguins are nervous when he shows them his strange new creation. Something they'd never seen or expected to see in their cold and colourless Antarctic world — a red hat. The other penguins have no doubt his invention will lead to certain doom...



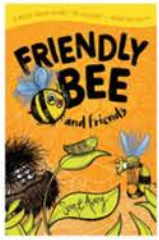
**Frank's Red Hat** Number One bestselling Children's Book in Australia August 2023



## Australian books The best Australian children's books of 2023: Alice Pung, Davina Bell, Sean Avery and more

Friendly Bee and Friends series by Sean E Avery, Walker Books Australia

*Un-bee-lievably sweet character*

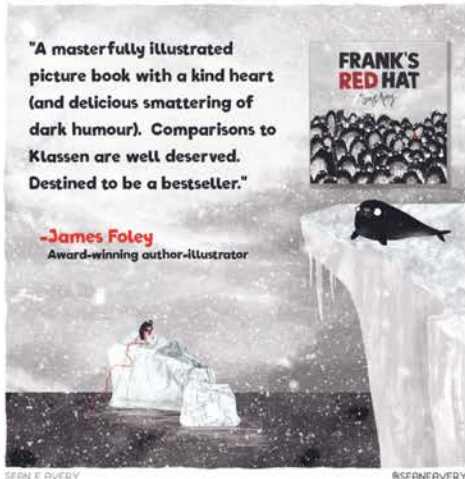


Crafted by a rising star of the Australian kid lit scene, Sean E Avery, Friendly Bee is an optimistic insect on a mission to befriend bugs, whether they welcome it or not.

Presented in a comic strip layout with vibrant yellow and black illustrations, these book

effortlessly mix narrative with nonfiction. Friendly Bee often finds himself in amusing predicaments, but fortunately his reluctant BFF Angry Wasp, regularly steps in to rescue the cheerful bee from impending disaster. Clever Cricket chimes in with fascinating bug facts amid Friendly Bee's entertaining escapades.

Packed with entertaining characters, rambunctious action and constant laughs, these books mark the beginning of an exciting graphic novel series for young readers.



"This Un-BEE-lievably fun book is the bee's knees. As sweet as Narwhal & Jelly with the sting of Catwad, Friendly Bee & Friends is destined to be a hit with young graphic novel fans everywhere. The creative layouts are buzzing with banter, bursting with heart, filled with facts and packed with laughs. You'll love hanging out with your cheeky new B(ee). F. Fs."

- Matt Cosgrove  
Author-Illustrator of Macca the Alpaca



GRAPHIC NOVEL  
AGES 7-10  
APRIL 2023  
WALKER BOOKS



# WALKER BOOKS

MEDIA RELEASE

## Walker Wednesday entry leads to four-book deal for WA Author

Walker Book Australia has signed a four-book deal with West Australian author Sean E Avery, after he submitted his manuscripts through Walker Wednesday in July '20. Sean's manuscripts were two out of over 1200 manuscripts submitted in the first round of Walker Wednesday, where the editorial team and other passionate staff members review unpublished manuscripts for all ages (picture books, junior fiction, middle grade fiction and YA) from new and established writers.

Walker Wednesday is now an annual event that saw nearly 3000 submissions received in 2020, from aspiring authors across Australia and New Zealand.

"We are super excited to be publishing two picture books and two graphic novels from the hugely talented Sean E Avery. First sighted when our reading-obsessed team was devouring the thousands of submissions that flooded in from our popular Walker Wednesday call out, his manuscripts shone like beacons and simply could not be ignored. And so we jumped on them as quickly as we could and cannot wait to share them with readers everywhere," says Lindsay Knight, Publisher at Walker Books Australia.



# The West Australian

Entertainment | Books

## Perth's Sean E Avery voted CBCA's Shadow Judging Picture Book of the Year for 2023

Tanya MacNaughton | The West Australian  
Fri, 25 August 2023 3:13PM

The kids are alright for Perth author Sean E Avery whose book Frank's Red Hat has been voted as the Children's Book Council of Australia's Shadow Judging Picture Book of the Year for 2023.

A week after fellow Perth author Craig Silvey won the official CBCA Younger Readers award for his book Runt, the votes of thousands of children from around Australia in the CBCA Shadow Judging Awards have been tallied for their own winning books out of the CBCA Book of the Year Award Shortlist.



# TESTIMONIALS

*“Sean Avery's dynamic picture book incursions with our Year 7 students were very successful. These high school students hung onto every word he said, and he catered for diverse learning styles through a clever use of technology, mixed with good old-fashioned pencil and paper.*

*Within an hour-long workshop, every student had created a character in a setting and learned some simple creative tips to build their confidence when crafting multimodal narratives.*

*Our teachers also gained some great tips and strategies to implement in their classrooms. We hope Sean will return to Bunbury Catholic College in years to come so that he can continue to inspire our students and teachers.”*

**- Cally Yates (Head of English Learning Area, Bunbury Catholic College)**

*“I've had the privilege of booking Sean E Avery as one of my first book week presenters seven years ago and everywhere I've moved to, he's the first person I look to book in! Sean's passion for his creative endeavours makes every session unique, fun, and engaging. He can inspire kids to be imaginative as well as making them laugh at loud and promotes a love of reading, literature, and art. Sean has also provided a variety of workshops for school holidays and special weeks over the different libraries I've worked for and they've all been successful, well attended and focused on skill development and fun over the finished product, allowing every kid to give it a go.*

*Sean's background as a teacher absolutely shines as he can take the most rambunctious group and channel their energy into the session flawlessly. Be it art workshops, illustration skills, graphic novel techniques, podcasts, panel discussions or book week, Sean is an absolute professional in his set-up and delivery and makes every session an epic success.”*

**- Kirsty Lightfoot – Youth Services Librarian & CBCA WA Vice President.**

*“For Book Week we invited the hilarious and talented, Sean E Avery, to our school. “Frank's Red Hat” is one of our favourite books and the students were eager to find out how Sean comes up with the characters and ideas for his stories. He thoroughly entertained our PP-Year 3 students and teachers with his wonderful stories about perseverance and resilience. Sean's energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and he inspires the students to have a go at drawing cute characters and think of ideas to write their own stories. His presentation is fun, engaging and interactive. All his books are now hot property in our library with so many students wanting to borrow his amazing stories.”*

**- Sasha Cattapan (Primary Library Teacher John XXIII College)**



# TEACHING CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

## ART TEACHER (PRIMARY SCHOOL)

- Diploma of Education (*Edith Cowan University*)
- 10 years of service in the public school system
- Many student awards won for local and national writing, art and illustration competitions
- Established a small publishing imprint (Carnaby Press) at Carnaby Rise Primary School that commercially publishes a student book every year
- Many large-scale murals and art installations facilitated for students over the years



## CARNABY PRESS



### CARNABY PRESS

Established by Carnaby Rise Primary Art teacher Sean Avery in 2019, this small publishing imprint is committed to sharing the best stories written and illustrated by Carnaby students.

Each year, the best student book is selected, professionally produced, and sold at an official book launch. The Carnaby P&C pay for printing costs and all proceeds from sales go back to the school (after the student creators receive their royalties of course).

After the initial print run, the student books go on a print-on-demand website where they can be ordered by anyone, anywhere in the world for as long as the student creators want it to remain in print.

Carnaby Press books have been bought and read by children in Australia, Brazil, Europe and the USA.

### ACCOLADES

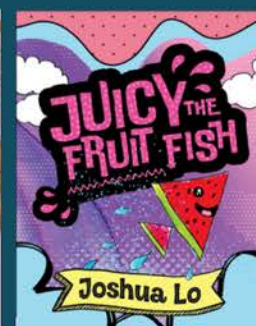
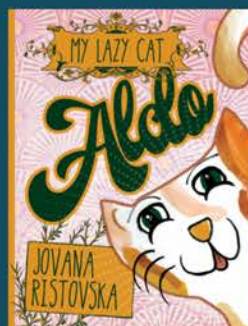
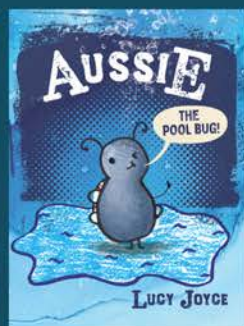
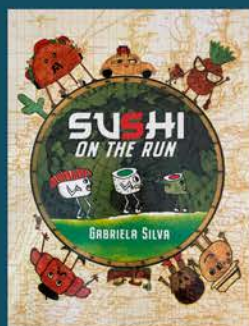
Gabi Silva's 2020 book, *Sushi On The Run*, won 3rd place in the CBCA Make Your Own Storybook competition and first place in the Little Larrikins story competition. Gabi has even signed a copy of her book for Premier Mark McGowan.

Lucy Joyce's 2021 book, *Aussie the Pool Bug*, won 2nd place in the CBCA Make Your Own Storybook competition

Joshua Lo's 2023 book, *Juicy the Fruit Fish*, won 2nd place in the CBCA Make Your Own Storybook competition

Over 500 copies of Carnaby Press books have been sold in the past 4 years, raising over \$3000 for the Carnaby Rise P&C.

### CARNABY PRESS BOOKS PUBLISHED



PRESS PHOTOS

# TEACHING CAREER HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

## PROVIDING FREE SUPPORT AND VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, CREATIVES, THERAPISTS AND PARENTS

- YouTube channel detailing the entire process of book creation for kids
- Free “Story Blocks for Picture Books” writing programmes for making picture books with kids at home and in the classroom

**RESOURCES**

# STORY BLOCKS

## FOR PICTURE BOOKS

BY SEAN E AVERY

THE FUN AND EASY WAY TO MAKE PICTURE BOOKS WITH YOUR KIDS AT HOME OR SCHOOL.

(8-11 YEARS EDITION)

[READ MORE](#)

THE FUN AND EASY WAY TO MAKE PICTURE BOOKS WITH YOUR KIDS AT HOME OR SCHOOL.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WRITING, ILLUSTRATION AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

[READ MORE](#)

KIDS DEVELOP HABITS OF DAILY CREATIVITY IN CLASS OR AT HOME

### HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR BOOK

THEY ARE REWARDED WITH THEIR VERY OWN BOOK AFTER 30 DAYS THAT THEY CAN BE PROUD OF FOREVER.

[READ MORE](#)

### MAKE ROBUST BOOK DUMMIES WITH SIMPLE MATERIALS

#### HOW TO CONSTRUCT YOUR BOOK

NO COMPLEX SEWING, MEASURING, GLUING, FOLDING OR ENGINEERING DEGREE REQUIRED FOR BINDING.

[READ MORE](#)

### BRAINSTORMING DISTILLED TO THE ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS

FOR THE KID (OR GROWNUP) WHO WANTS TO DIVE STRAIGHT INTO THE FUN OF MAKING BOOKS ASAP.

[READ MORE](#)

### CREATIVE FREEDOM FOR CONFIDENT WRITERS, SAFETY FOR HESITANT ONES

SCAFFOLDED TEMPLATES TO FREE KIDS' MINDS FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSION

[READ MORE](#)

### ONE TEMPLATE, INFINITE STORY POSSIBILITIES...

WIP SAMPLES ABOVE FROM YEAR 4 (8-9 YEAR-OLD) STUDENTS

[READ MORE](#)

### VIDEO SUPPORT FROM SEAN FOR ALL COMPONENTS OF STORY BLOCKS

SCAN THE QR CODE ON EACH PAGE TO GET A QUICK, 3-5 MINUTE VIDEO TUTORIAL FROM SEAN FOR THAT SECTION - VIDEOS RELEASED WEEKLY ON YOUTUBE

[READ MORE](#)

### STORY BLOCKS IS 100% FREE WHEN YOU SIGN UP TO SEAN'S NEWSLETTER!

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER; NO SPAM EVER; ONLY HIGH-QUALITY, FREE RESOURCES MADE WITH LOVE BY A GUY WHO LOVES MAKING BOOKS AND TEACHING KIDS HOW TO MAKE BOOKS.

(SOME OTHER HANDY RESOURCES ARE INCLUDED TOO!)

[READ MORE](#)



# LARGE GROUP PRESENTATIONS

(45 minutes – 1 hour)

With large groups of students (25 - 200 kids) Sean delivers an engaging and inspiring presentation that takes the kids through his journey as a professional book maker. The students will hear about and experience:

- Where Sean's story ideas coming from
- How he designs characters
- How he makes his stories 'pop'
- The invisible effort and dedication of being a professional artist
- Behind-the-scenes processes of his award-winning books and upcoming releases
- Readings
- Games
- Giveaways
- Interactive drawing demonstrations

## RESOURCES NEEDED:

*A smart board or projector to hook up a laptop; a table to set up a laptop and drawing equipment; students to bring their own clipboard, pencil and paper if they want to draw along with Sean*

# COSTS

## WA SCHOOLS

\$482 1 session  
\$625 2 sessions  
\$854 3 sessions

## ALL OTHER WA PUBLIC APPEARANCES

\$521 1 session  
\$797 2 sessions  
\$1141 3 sessions

Additional travel costs will be incurred for WA venues more than 45 minutes travel away.

## INTERSTATE VISITS

\$5 per student (minimum 250 students, max 4 sessions per day) for all school and public appearances outside of WA.



# SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

(1 hour – 1.5 hours)

With smaller groups of students (1 - 25 kids) Sean delivers engaging writing, illustration or writing-illustration workshops where students create their own unique projects and receive personalised feedback. These are some of the small group workshops he offers:

## MINI COMICS

Students are taught the conventions of comic making and graphic storytelling to create their own mini comics. They are guided through the following process:

- Character development
- Story structure and pacing
- Comic lettering and panelling
- Tips for self-publishing

### RESOURCES NEEDED:

A smart board or projector to hook up a laptop; a table to set up a laptop and drawing equipment; A4 and A3 paper; coloured paper/magazines helpful; glue sticks; textas; fineliners; coloured and lead pencils; erasers; scissors; adequate workspace for students

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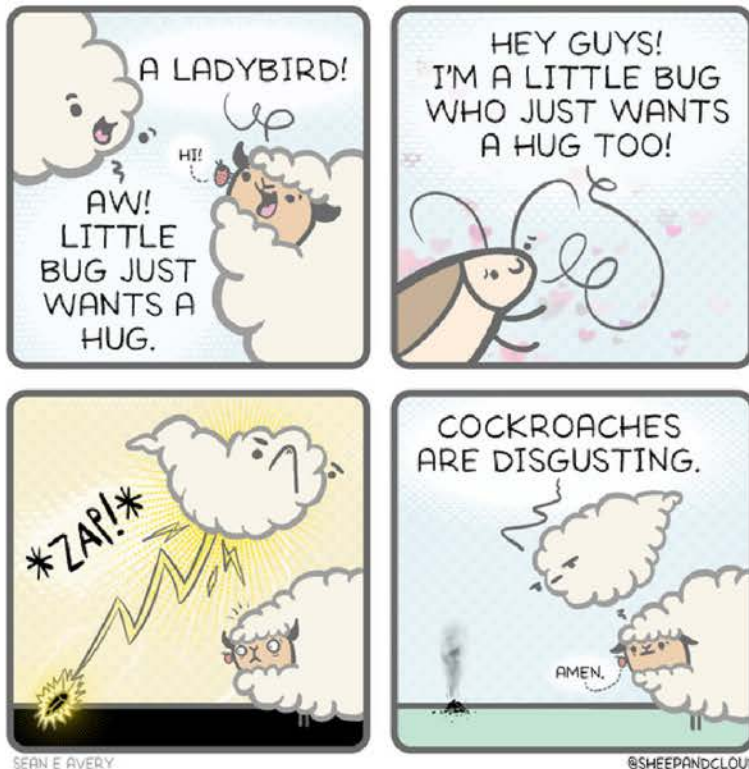
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SEAN E AVERY

@SHEEPANDCLOUD



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## COLLAGE ILLUSTRATION

Students are taught the conventions of comic making Sean uses a combination of traditional and digital collage techniques to create the illustrations for his picture books. This workshop walks kids through the process of creating a collaged landscape that could be used as a background in a book illustration:

- Painting
- Composition
- Cutting, arranging, gluing
- Finishing details (drawing)

### RESOURCES NEEDED:

*A smart board or projector to hook up a laptop; a table to set up a laptop and drawing equipment; A4 and A3 paper; coloured paper/magazines helpful; glue sticks; textas; fineliners; coloured and lead pencils; erasers; scissors; adequate workspace for students; table coverings to protect from paint; access to power outlets*



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## BOOK MAKING AND BINDING

There are many book formats students can create to showcase their stories. Sean will show students how to assemble different book styles by hand so they can best showcase their stories and drawings. He will teach students how to create the following handmade book formats:

- hard case book
- saddle-stitch book
- hotdog fold book
- mini comic
- pocket (secret compartment) book
- accordion book

### RESOURCES NEEDED:

*A smart board or projector to hook up a laptop; a table to set up a laptop and drawing equipment; A4 and A3 paper; coloured paper/magazines helpful; glue sticks; textas; fineliners; coloured and lead pencils; erasers; scissors; sticky tape; adequate workspace for students*

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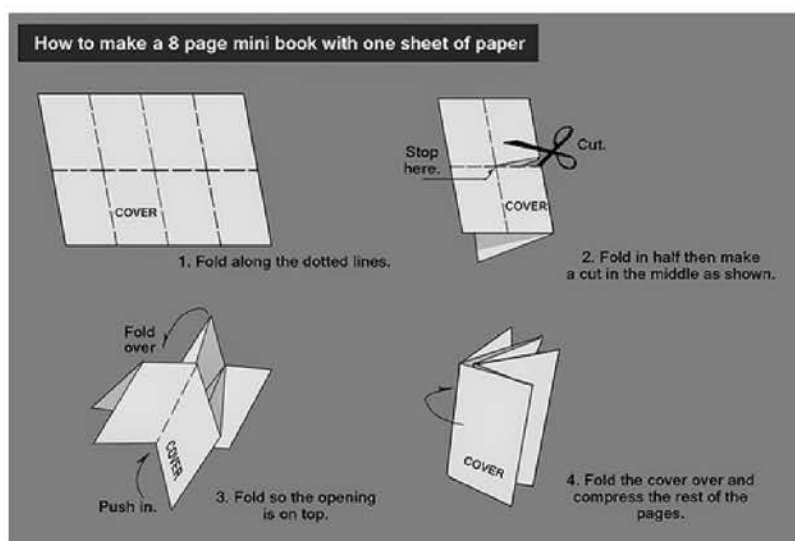
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## SHINING STORIES

For students who are passionate about writing and story making already; students will be shown a number of techniques to make their stories shine in a group setting. Essentially a critique session where we will examine:

- Writing for a specific audience
- Creating memorable characters
- Story Structure (rhythm, flow, variation)
- Working with words and pictures

### RESOURCES NEEDED:

*A smart board or projector to hook up a laptop; a table to set up a laptop and drawing equipment; students to bring stories that they've been working on already on to share with a group; pencils; A4 paper*

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