

## Teaching Writing → Students and Creative Writing

### Level: Middle School

*Sometimes two minds are better than one. Many successful novels and nonfiction works are written by partners or teams of writers. Writing with one or more partners is called **co-writing**. When you are stuck on a plot for a story or can't think what to write about, it can help to have someone to talk it over with. Partners can share the work of the story: brainstorming, planning, writing, and editing.*

**Choose a partner to work with. Then, follow the steps below to write a story together.**

**Step 1: Brainstorm** Throw out ideas and list them on a piece of paper. Try to come up with 10.

**Step 2: Choose** Look back over your list of ideas. Pick one idea that both partners like and that they think has potential. Now add details to your idea by answering these questions:

- What is your setting?
- Who are your characters?
- What problem will they face?
- How will they solve it?

Write notes, an outline, or a flow chart to organize your information.

**Step 3: Divide** Decide how you will divide the work. You can work according to:

- Roles--one person writes and the other edits
- Sections--Find a way to divide the work that seems fair. For example, one person writes the introduction and conclusion and the other writes the middle, or each writer writes three scenes, or even, one writer writes dialogue and the other writes description.

**Step 4: Write** Follow your plan. If you get stuck, work with your partner to solve the problem.

**Step 5: Evaluate** When you are finished, take time to think about the process. Were two heads better than one?

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