

Planning a portal story

Nearly all portal stories follow a similar pattern:

Main character finds magical portal & enters new world

Describe new world

Main character explores this new world & encounters a problem

Main character has to escape & return through the portal

Main Character cannot find portal again

Once you have identified the pattern of the story, the possibilities are endless. Let your imagination run free. Brainstorm lots of ideas and then decide which captures your interest as a writer. Before you start, take a look at my top tips.

Top tips for story writing:

- Start in a world/a setting that you know well – it is far easier to describe something familiar to you, e.g. a garden, your school, your local town, etc.
- Use a stimulus (e.g. picture) for the new world – an image will help you focus in on the detail and describe what is there.
- Let your ideas flow – don't worry about spelling, handwriting or presentation ... you can go back and edit this later.

Here are a couple of ideas to open your mind to the world of possibility, followed by a planning grid for you to complete. Remember, you can use your introduction from yesterday if you would like.

Underlying Pattern	Story Idea 1	Story Idea 2
Main character finds magical portal and enters new world	Elif is playing in her Grandmother's garden and notices a small fairy door. Touches door and shrinks/ enters.	Josh and Archie playing hide and seek in their house. Archie opens hatch in the roof and discovers new world.
Describe new world	Arrives in an underground world full of caves, giant toadstools and magical creatures.	Transported to life onboard an enormous sailing ship in Tudor England.
Main character explores new world and encounters a problem	Elif explores new world and enters an area strictly forbidden. Picks magical flower.	Ship is thrown into battle.
Main character has to escape and return through the portal	Alarms sound and Elif runs. She is chased through the magical world by unknown threat and escapes.	Archie desperately searches for portal and way back to own world.
Main character cannot find portal again	Elif cannot find fairy door again, but the cut flower lives on forever reminding her of her journey.	Archie escapes with small pouch of gunpowder in his pocket.

Planning Proforma

This is for your notes – you don't need to add lots of detail.

Underlying Pattern	Story Idea
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Main character has to escape and return through the portal	
Main character cannot find portal again	