



# Family Participation Guide

## COMPAS presents: Story Writing with Stephen Peters

Today you are experiencing an arts education program presented by COMPAS! Artists—like scientists—explore the world ... start your exploration here:

### About the Residency:

Stephen's residencies provide the structure within which creativity thrives and takes shape. Using storytelling and cartooning, Stephen shows students how to add vivid sensory details to their stories and how to understand story structure. Each student creates an original character with a problem, the character is placed in a conflict scene, and is then challenged by a variety of antagonists. The character has to try to solve the problem and learn and grow through the struggle. This model is adjusted for each grade and class personality. Stephen stresses the writing process—from inspiration to final product—and he makes an emphatic case for reading, rewriting, and learning the rules of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

### About Stephen Peters:

Stephen's residencies aim to foster a love of reading and writing. They inspire, energize, and encourage students to begin thinking of themselves as writers—and as readers who think like writers! Stephen's joy in working with children is contagious; he and the children seem to hit it off quickly in the fun, high-energy workshops he has offered for over 20 years. Stephen's work has appeared in many publications. He is author of *Pennsylvania*, a non-fiction book for 5th graders, and *Kerfuffle!*, a collection of cartoons and poems.

### Vocabulary:

**Freewrite:** writing done with little or no attention to rules of grammar or sentence structure

**Conflict:** a clashing or sharp disagreement (as between ideas, interests, or purposes), or mental struggle

**Antagonist:** one that opposes another

**Protagonist:** the chief character in a play, novel, or story

*\*Definitions derived from merriam-webster.com*

### Suggested family discussion questions:

Who is the main character in your story? Describe the character you created.

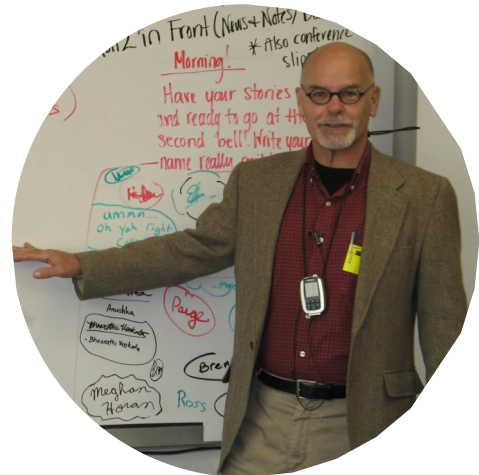
What is your story about? What problems or conflicts does your character encounter? How does the character solve the problem?

What inspire your ideas for your story?

### A few places to search for answers:

*Pennsylvania* / by Stephen Peters

*Kerfuffle!* / by Stephen Peters



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