

What If Plot/ Idea

The simple question “what if?” is the starting point for every story. A story builds through series of “what ifs” because every story has to travel through many narrative forks in the road.

To get your story started – and keep it moving forward if you’re stuck later- use this exercise:

- At the top of a clean page, write “**WHAT IF**”. Then let your imagination run wild and write down every “what if” possibility you can think of. The wilder and crazier the better.
- What if you woke up with wings?
- What if your sister turned into a mouse?
- What if you found out one of your teachers was planning to eat one of you at the end of term- but you didn’t know who?
- What if instead of money you gave memories?
- What if someone was living in an abandoned house?
- What if your protagonist snuck into the principal’s office and got caught?
- What if your protagonist fell into a well and discovered a new world?