



The Honest Truth on How to Lie

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Notes!

A few noticeable differences between “lies” and “tall tales”:

Lies often ...

- Are told as a personal story. Something that happened to the teller.
- Have a contemporary feel.

Tall Tales often ...

- Involve larger than life characters.
- Have literary origins.
- Explain how something came to be.
- Are fantastical.

What are similarities you notice between the two?

Creative Juices: Pick an everyday object around you.

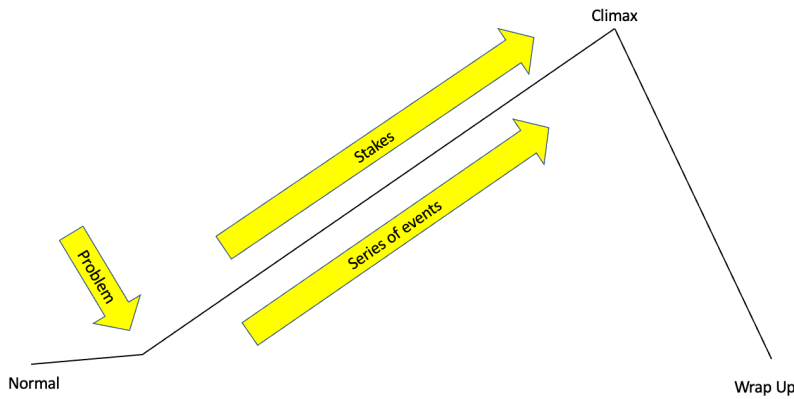
In the time specified, write down as many things as you can do with that object, including what it is designed for and what it is not! Don't be afraid to get zany ...

Story Structure Basics:

- Character
- Encounters a problem or situation
- Works to resolve it **
- Story ends

** The bulk of your story is going to be in the “works to resolve it” portion of your tale.

- This is where everything can slowly spin from normal to zany.
- Each event needs to build on the previous.
- Each event should raise the stakes from the previous.
- Each event builds to the climax:



Common approaches for lies (just to get you going):

- A mundane everyday activity gets out of control.
 - Gardening.
 - Feeding birds.
 - Collecting things.
- Setting the record straight.
 - This is what REALLY happened.
- Coping with an everyday problem.
 - Dryer lint.
- A common strength or weakness leads to issues.
 - Allergies.
 - No sense of direction.
 - Poor balance.
- Fighting technology.
 - Siri or Smart Speakers.
 - Computers that are smarter than you are.
 - Garage door openers.
- Job specifics.
 - Demon-possessed printers.
 - Coping with a co-worker.
 - The company fridge.
- Childhood remembrance.
 - As you “remember” it.
- Explanation of how something came to be in your community.
 - Something quirky in your town.
- When you found yourself in over your head.
 - Suddenly trust into the spotlight. How you rose to the occasion.
- Extraordinary opportunity that suddenly appears.
 - You seize the moment. (The Forrest Gump Effect)

Other ideas?

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Creative Juices: Pick something from the list above and quickly write notes as to where it could go.

Story Climax:

- You have asked the audience to indulge you. Make this a big payoff.
 - Don't be afraid to get zany, but it has to make sense.
 - The audience is with you.

Resolution:

- Offer a vivid image.
- Use specific language / a punchline.
- Leave people smiling (or groaning).
- Slow down in your delivery.
- End firmly.

Creative Juices: Consider these questions ...

- How did the events of the story change you and your life?
 - How did the greater world relate to your experiences?
 - What are the lasting effects?
 - What should the audience learn from your story? (Cautionary tale?)
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Resources:

Ingrid's Lies on YouTube:

Ingrid Nixon "Whale of a Tale": <https://youtu.be/9Yvhu9MqVWY>

Ingrid Nixon "The REAL Reason I Missed School":
https://youtu.be/mS_ysGS0Z_k

Additional Resources:

- *From Plot to Narrative* by Elizabeth Ellis
- *American Tall Tales* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *American Tall Tales* by Adrien Stoutenburg
- <https://americanfolklore.net/folklore/tall-tales/>
- This Wikipedia page has an excellent list of Tall Tale characters with links: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tall_tale

Thank you!