Start writing with STORY SLICES

Story slices are one-sentence-long writing prompts that you can use as a starting point to tell a larger story.

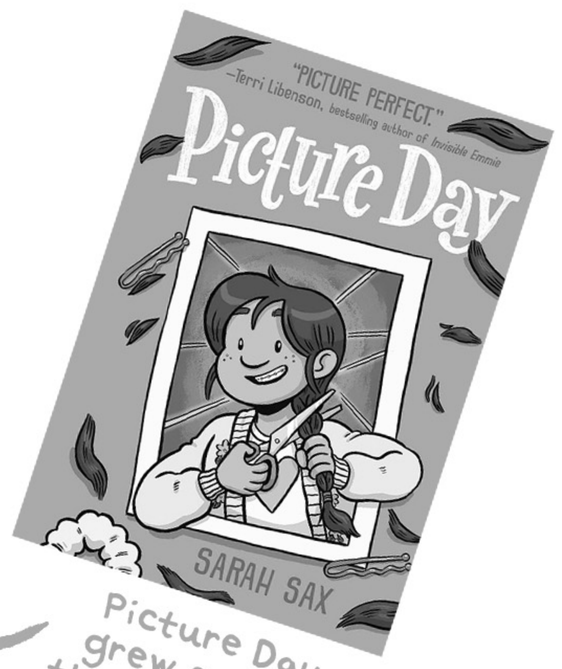
They can be from the beginning, middle or end of a story. They can use descriptive words or they can be made of dialogue. The most important quality of a story slice is that they make you curious about the bigger picture narrative that they could be sliced from. Here are some examples:

- They never opened that closet again.
- "Just a minute Mom," cried Dawn, "I'm almost ready to go..."
- Just then, she noticed the figure in the window

Slices can be paired with images to expand your story:



"Just a minute Mom," cried Dawn,
"I'm almost ready to go..."



Picture Day grew out of this story slice

This packet will guide you through the process of creating prompts and playing with how you start your stories:

p. 1 - DIY Story Slices
p. 2 - Story Slices To-Go
p. 3 - Make Your Own Prompt Box
p. 4 - Expand Your Story

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DIY story SLICES

Inspiration for a story slice can come from **anywhere.** The first step is to notice the things around you that **you** find interesting:

- **Take a walk and listen closely to the things you hear.** Did you hear an unusual sound? Did you overhear a part of a conversation?
- **When you walk into a room what's the first thing you smell?** Does it smell good, gross, intriguing? Why?
- **When you finish a new book or TV show, is there a part of the story that you can't stop thinking about?** How would you change it?

Write one sentence that captures each new idea. Try writing one every day for one week. With practice you'll develop an eye or ear (or nose!) for the things that get your creative gears turning.

Write your story slices in the spaces below. Cut them out and add them to your prompt box.

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STORY SLICES TO GO!

Looking for some ready-made creative inspiration? Start here with these to-go story slices! Cut these out and add them to your prompt box.

She reached into her backpack to grab her water bottle when something weird touched her hand.

It would have worked perfectly, but they forgot to lock the door.

After they finished the dance for the third time, everything around them looked...different.

Before she could sing another note the room filled up with puppies!

If she held on just a little bit longer, she knew the village would be saved.

On the count of three they all held their breath and stepped into the light.

When he opened his closet door the worst smell filled the room.

"Don't let them touch the ground!" cried Logan as his little sister squealed and reached out her hands.

As they walked into the cafeteria the entire room went quiet.

The second set of footprints seemed to vanish in the middle of the path.

Each morning, the unusual cloud reappeared.

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MAKE your OWN PROMPT! BOX

Find a special container where you can keep your story slices. It can be anything you want! Here are some ideas to get you started:

An empty shoebox
A flower pot
A hat!
A jewelry box
An empty fishbowl
A drawstring bag

Decorate your prompt box to make it feel extra special to use.



TIP: You can make a station with pencils, pens and pre-cut paper strips so you can write a new prompt whenever inspiration strikes!

Build Your Prompt-Practice!

- **Keep your prompt box somewhere where you'll see it.** The more you see it, the more likely you'll make time to jot down a new idea.
- **When you're looking for a story idea, pull out a prompt!** If a prompt doesn't speak to you, that's okay! You can fold it up and put it back in the box and pull another.
- **Add new story slices regularly.** The best part is forgetting what you've written and surprising yourself later.
- **Create playfully without judgement.** Let yourself be curious about the ideas that come from the prompts. There are no bad ideas here.

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EXPAND your story

If your story slice was a caption for an illustration in a chapter book, what would the picture look like? Tape your story slice in the space provided and draw your picture in the box below:

Attach your story slice here

Now ask yourself a few questions as you start to create:

- What happens right before this image is captured? What is going to happen right after?
- Who are the characters in your story? Can we see them all in this illustration or will some be revealed later?
- How do your characters feel about what's happening? Do they all feel the same?

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