



Step 6: Ban the Boring Bits

SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Series One

Why do kids always fill their stories with the boring details of their day? How many of these have you seen?

• **Food Fetishes:**

We were at Disneyworld and we got to eat hamburgers with chips and a big thick milkshake. I had two whole bottles of Coke and my sister had...

• **Bedroom boredom:**

I woke up that morning and leapt out of bed and put on my best jeans and a jumper and then cleaned my teeth and put on my shoes...

• **Trapped in travel:**

In the bus on the way to the swimming sports we waved at the cars and Mark made us sing really boring songs and then we put our streamers through the windows and...

It's called 'warm-up' writing because people start with the safe and familiar. Professional authors know this - some authors even cut out the first few chapters when editing, so their book jumps straight into the action.

TOP TIP:

We often learn more about what kids ate going to the zoo than what happened when the lion escaped. So simply tell children to cut out the boring bits: no beds, no bus trips, no boring lists of friends or food. (See also Step 1: Sizzling Starts)



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Watch movies and see how little of the 'boring bits' they use. They rarely show people using the bathroom, brushing their teeth or blow drying their hair. Even stranger, notice how people never seem to travel, they just 'arrive'.

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