



THE GLITCH

**A SUDDEN SHIFT, A TWIST OF FATE,
AND BAM! EVERYTHING CHANGES...**

**100
WORD
LIMIT!**

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Today you are going to write a short story for Young Writers' The Glitch competition.

- You could be published in a book
- You could win a trophy and £50
- You could win a prize for your school

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It's time to turn on your device if
you're typing your work

Or

Grab your pen and a The Glitch
planning sheet/entry form
to write on

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First watch this short video which introduces The Glitch



https://youtu.be/908hS8si_dA

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Speculative Fiction

Does anyone know what
'speculative fiction' means?

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Speculative - Adjective: based on a guess and not information

Speculative fiction is a story that takes place in our world, but with an added magical, supernatural, futuristic or other twist that creates a 'what-if' scenario.

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Here are some examples of books that can be classed as speculative fiction.

Discuss what you think the 'what if' scenarios are for each one.

Twilight

Lord of the Flies

Percy Jackson series

They Both Die at the End

Harry Potter series

Peter Pan

The Hunger Games

Jurassic Park

(Don't worry if you're not familiar with some of them, do the ones you can or guess!
Your teacher may give you different examples.)

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Here are the answers we came up with:

Twilight – what if vampires were real and a high school girl fell in love with one?

Lord of the Flies – what if a group of boys had to fend for themselves on an island?

Percy Jackson series – what if you discover you are half Greek god?

They Both Die at the End – what if you knew you were going to die today?

Harry Potter series – what if a boy discovers he's a famous wizard?

Peter Pan – what if there was a magical land where children don't grow up?

The Hunger Games – what if children were sent to fight to the death for the entertainment of the elite?

Jurassic Park – what if dinosaurs were brought back to life?

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Elements of Speculative Fiction

Now you have some examples of speculative fiction novels, think about what they have in common.

What elements are present in speculative fiction?

You could think about themes, settings, characters or plot points.

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Here's our list. Did you get any of these?
Are there any that you thought of that
we missed?

Magic

Alternate realities or parallel universes

Future or advanced technology

Supernatural phenomena

Alien life

Reimagining historical events

Good vs evil

Future of humanity

Superpowers

Ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances

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Writing a Mini Saga

You'll be writing your speculative fiction in the form of a mini saga.

A mini saga is a story told in 100 words. There are three golden rules you need to stick to:

- Be original! You can be inspired by other stories, but the plot must be entirely your own.
- Keep to the 100-word limit – every word counts!
- Remember that mini sagas still need to have a beginning, a middle and an end.

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Exploring Plot Ideas

There are 8 postcards around your classroom.

Each one has a story starter – a short sentence that you can use to start or inspire your story.

When your teacher tells you to, get up and look around for the postcards. Read them all carefully and consider each one before moving to the next.

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Which story starter sparks an idea for a story in your mind?

Choose your favourite and mark which one you have chosen on your planning sheet.

Take a moment to re-read it and think about the character and setting it suggests to you.

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Planning Your Mini Saga

Complete the rest of your planning sheet.

Remember you will only have 100 words to tell your story, so make sure you don't add in too many characters or plot points.

What are the consequences of the glitch in your story? Does it get fixed, or does your character have to adapt to the new reality?

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It's nearly time to get writing, but before you start, here are some tips for writing a whole story in just 100 words:

- Contract words e.g. *it is* becomes *it's*
- Start as close to the end of the story as possible – dive right into the action!
- Cut out unnecessary words e.g. *And then when I arrived I...* becomes *Arriving, I...*
- Are there any actions or images that can be expressed in fewer words? E.g. *I ran fast* becomes *I sprinted*

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Get Writing!

Here's a reminder of the three golden rules of mini saga writing:

1. Be original! You can be inspired by other stories, but the plot must be entirely your own!
2. Keep to the 100-word limit – every word counts!
3. Remember that mini sagas still need to have a beginning, a middle and an end.

Write out your story in rough first, so you can see where you need to make cuts or change parts.

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It's Peer Assessment Time

Share your work with a partner.

They will let you know what they liked about your mini saga, and give you a suggestion on how it could be improved, or if you need help cutting it down to 100 words, and spotting any mistakes.

Then you do the same for them.

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Submit Your Work

Make sure your name is on your work.

- Hand in your form if you've written it on paper
- Email or upload to your teacher if you've typed it
- Submit your work if using the Online Writing Portal

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**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED WRITING
YOUR STORY FOR THE GLITCH!**

www.youngwriters.co.uk

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