

How to Write This Book!

You're going to be the author.

(Write your name here.)

How to Write This Book

You're going to be the author.

(Write your name here.)

This page should be blank, so you've already finished your first page. Keep going.

Title

What's the title of your book going to be?
Make it sound exciting, or thoughtful, or funny, or even mysterious.
Make the letters as big as you want.

Author

Who's the author? You – yes, you. You're an author.
This is the easy part. Write your name here.
Write it proudly. Use big letters – almost as big as the title.

Copyright © _____
(Write the year here.) (Write your name here.)

This proves that you wrote this book, and the year when you wrote it.
It's legal. It's yours. Make it look like this:

Copyright © 2018 Jimmy Huston

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What would you name your publishing company? (You have one now.)

Call it whatever you like. Put that here. _____

Add the date of publication. _____

If you have a website or Facebook page, list it here. _____

And there's usually some legal gibberish like this (but don't worry about it for now).

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Most authors dedicate their book to someone important to them, or to their writing career. Often it's a family member or close friend. Sometimes it's a teacher or someone who influenced or helped them. It could even be a group of people. You may want to write a sentence about them.

You've probably noticed that there are a lot of boring pages at the front of most books. Now that you're an insider, you should know that these pages are called "Front Matter" by people in the book business – like you.

Some books start with a quote that the author feels is important to the book. Maybe it's about the subject of the book. Maybe it sets a tone that you like. Maybe it's a historical reference. Maybe you don't bother with this at all. Or add it later.

It could be part of a poem, or from a song that you like, or a favorite saying.

Another easy blank page. Skip it.

Now you need a list of chapters that shows what page each chapter starts on.

Sometimes the chapters have names, so you can include those, too. You'll probably have to do this page later, after you've created the chapters and named them.

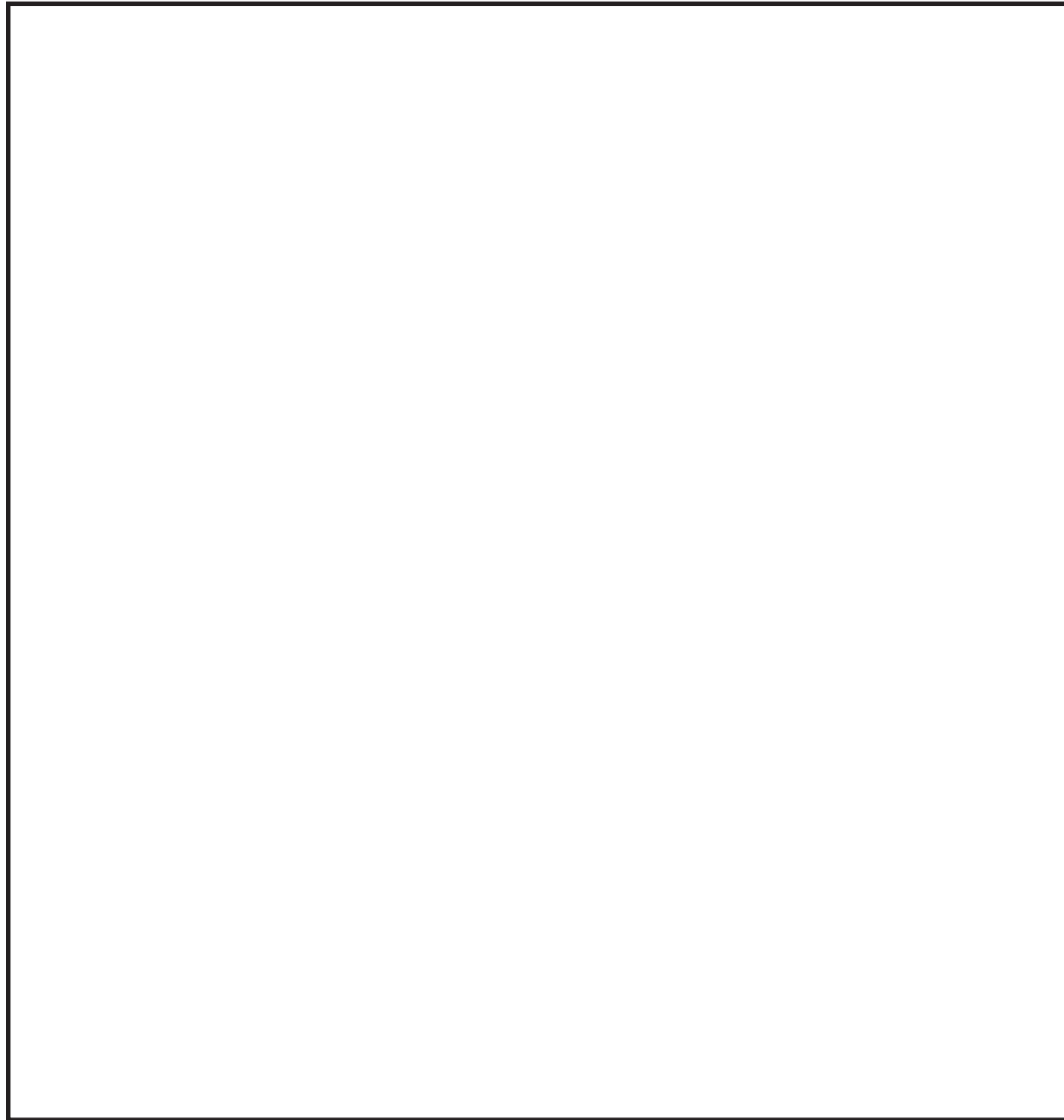
Let's start with five chapters. You can always add more if you want to.

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For some reason chapters always start on the right hand page, so the left side page should stay blank – unless you want to put a picture here.

Lots of books have pictures. You can draw (or paint) whatever you want to show how you imagine your story.



Write a caption here. _____

This is where the story begins. Just start writing. You can change things later if you wish. You don't have to write everything at once. You can think about it and come back later. You can skip around. (And you don't have to fill up the whole page.)

There are suggestions at the top of each page, but you don't have to read them, and you certainly don't have to do what they say. Ignore whatever you want. Just write.

Where does your story take place? Where does it start?

It can be in your neighborhood, or it can be around the world, or even farther away. It can be on another planet or in a magical kingdom or an underwater castle or a distant time, either in the future or the past. You get to choose.

If you're not sure, think about the stories that you like. Have fun. Write something you will enjoy and can describe in a way that sounds cool. Just get started!

Chapter One

Choose a comedy or a scary story or a love story or a fairy tale – whatever you like. They're all good.

It's a good idea to write about something that you know. Mark Twain worked on a steamboat on the Mississippi River before he wrote Tom Sawyer. Herman Melville worked on whaling ships before he wrote Moby Dick. You've probably never worked on a boat, so choose something else.

Whatever you're interested in, you can put that in your story. It could be about the world of baseball or ballet or skateboarding or cooking or astronomy – or boats.

Now that you have your story's basic idea figured out (some people call that creating your story's world), it's time to think about who lives in that world. The best stories start with good, interesting characters. Who is going to be your main character? (Sometimes that's called the hero.) Give him or her a name that you like a lot.

Your characters may be like someone you know, or someone you've made up – or they may remind you of yourself. What does each one look like? A description can be a good place to start, or think up a history of the character. What makes your main character special? What does your main character like to do? Is your main character strong, smart, funny, happy – or the opposite of any of these things?

All authors – even the ones who wrote the classics – started out as kids.

Nobody knows when the masters started writing, but if they'd had help early on, maybe those classics wouldn't have to be "assigned reading."

With early literary intervention Faulkner, Hemingway, Twain, and Capote could've had a giant step forward into the world of writing.

An aspiring Homer could have had guidance in his writing. Little Dante could've done even better. And young Shakespeare, too.

It's not too late for the kids of today. Start here. Write This Book!

When it's finished, scan it and email a copy to *authors@howtowritethisbook.com*. If we can, we'll publish it on our young authors' website at *www.howtowritethisbook.com*.