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Children's Book Author

What if your teacher asks you to write a story  
and you don't have a "big idea?"

Here's a simple SIX-STEP SYSTEM to write a story even if your mind is a total blank...

1. CHOOSE A SETTING, anyplace in the world (say, Texas).
2. PICK A MAIN CHARACTER. Not a name, but a type of individual (cowboy).
3. GIVE THAT CHARACTER A PROBLEM OR GOAL (wants to become rodeo champ).
4. THINK OF A FEW OTHER CHARACTERS your main character is likely to encounter (rival, former rodeo star, best friend, dog).
5. GET YOUR MAIN CHARACTER INTO TROUBLE (somehow breaks leg, accused of crime, tornado hits)
6. LET YOUR IMAGINATION GO WILD, writing all the thoughts down before you forget them. You're on your way to writing a story!

You have a big advantage over me. You're a kid. Anything is possible to you.

You don't know all the rules, so you can break them.

That can lead to brilliant, original writing. You can do it!