

QUIZ:
Are you
a great
mate?

Try this quizzly quiz
(made up by me, Soph
and Fee) and see!



1. You promised to hang out with your best mate this afternoon, but now your mum's offered to take you out shopping. You don't know when she'll be in such a generous mood again. So, where are you at 3 o'clock?

- ☐ A) At your friend's place, just like you promised. (Well, she did ask first and you can always go shopping another day).
- ☐ B) On your way to get dropped off at your friend's after the shopping trip, hoping she's not too grumpy with you for being late. (You may need to take crisps or chocolate, just to say sorry.)
- ☐ C) Er, probably out shopping with your mum. (Sorry best mate!)

2. Someone in your class has asked you to her party, but not asked your best friend. Eek! What are you going to do?

- ☐ A) You're not going to go without her. Unless she says it's absolutely OK. And if you promise her to do something particularly excellent together the next day to make up for it.
- ☐ B) Get your head in a tangle trying to figure out what to do, and your tummy in complicated knots of guilt.
- ☐ C) Feel miserable for her, but still go. After all, it's not your fault.

3. Your friend tells you that she's determined to be a singer, and wants to enter a TV talent shows as soon as she's old enough. She doesn't seem to have noticed that your dog can sing better than her. When she tells you, you...

- ☐ A) say "Ooh, lovely!" and then hope she forgets all about it in the next few years.
- ☐ B) point out that every good singer needs to practise ALL the time, and keep your fingers crossed that she either gets a whole lot better by practising OR gets bored by the practising and gives up.
- ☐ C) can't quite breathe, you're laughing so much.

4. You and your best friend argue about:

- ☐ A) Nothing much. You hardly ever argue.
- ☐ B) Stupid stuff that's forgotten by the next day.
- ☐ C) Where to go, what to do, whose turn it is to phone, borrowing clothes, boys, music, DVDs and whether or not Marmite is evil or good. With lots of huffing thrown in.

5. Your friend has just told you the biggest, best(est) secret ever. You promise not to tell a soul. A week later, and you might have....

- ☐ A) wanted to tell, but you didn't.
- ☐ B) told one person. Who promised not to tell anyone else. Honest.
- ☐ C) told more than one person. Oops.

Now add up your scores!

| | A | B | C |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

SO HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Between 13-15

Top marks for
excellent friend-
friendliness! We
award you a(n
invisible) trophy
for being a truly
great mate!
(Hope your
best mate is just
as great back –
you deserve it!)



Indie Kidd's (Most Excellent) Friendship Bracelet Instructions

Choose your colours and cut four lengths of thread as long as your arm.

Tape one end of each thread to a flat surface.

Start with the two left-hand threads. Pass the left thread over the right thread then bring it back underneath and through the loop, pulling it tight to make a knot.

Do this one more time to make a second knot.

Use the same piece of thread to make two knots on middle thread, and then two knots on the right-hand thread. Your first row is done.

Use the new thread on the left to create another row of two knots on each thread.

Keep going, using the far left thread each time to start a new row.

When your bracelet is long enough, plait and knot the threads at each end. Your bracelet is ready to tie on!

My best(est) writing tips

By KAREN McCOMBIE

Do you ever get stuck writing stories? Me too! Here're some suggestions to make it a weeny bit easier..

1) Get a cool notepad and coloured pen

Great ideas have a bad habit of pinging into my brain, and then pinging right back out again. So for me, it makes sense to carry a small notepad and pen around so I can scribble snippets of inspiration down when they strike!

To make your scribbles more fun, get yourself a funky notepad, and choose a nice coloured pen to write with (purple glitter gel pens are my favourite!).

2) Plan your story (yep, your teacher was right about that!)

It's a horrible feeling to start a story, then run out of ideas after just a few sentences, and feel like giving up. Here's the solution: when you're about to write something – a short story OR a book – you should always spend a chunk of time doodling around with a rough plan for a beginning, middle and ending **WAY** before you get going properly.

It might feel like extra work at first, but it'll make your story much, much easier to write, promise!

3) Grab your readers' attention...

...by making the first couple of lines you write as special and different as you can. You could make them short and snappy, quirky or intriguing, or perhaps start with a bit of speech.

Whatever it is, try to write something that you feel will make people want to read on.

4) Have lots of interesting detail

Coming up with the **MAIN IDEA** for a story is important, but unless you get some interesting **DETAILS** in there, your story ~~you~~ won't keep your readers hooked. Details can be about the **CHARACTER** (the way they look, dress or act, or hobbies they have, for instance), or **SETTING** (think of backdrops to your story where lots could happen, ~~eg~~ a fairground, or a pod on the London Eye, or a school on another planet!).



5) Make any speaking bits sound real

Lots of people struggle when they do speech in stories (when they write it down it comes out stilted), but there's a simple way to make it sound good – and real! Once you write what you want your character to say, try speaking it out loud, as if you're actually chatting with your mate (or do it in your head, if you don't want to look mad!).

If it doesn't sound right, ~~is~~ it doesn't sound the way you or your friends actually talk, then give it another go until it **DOES** sound how you'd say it in real life.

6) Come up with a great ending!

Try to have a little twist. Twists don't have to be dramatic, like everything blowing up or something; they can just be interesting or funny or make you think.

Whichever type of twist you choose, they're the thing that makes an ending really satisfying.

7) Hide your story away!

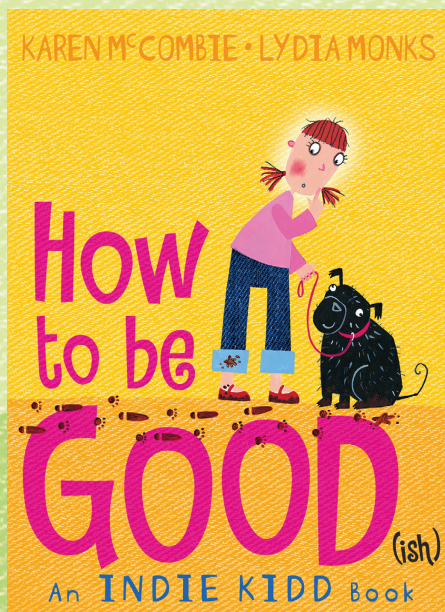
Not sure if you like your story or not? Then put it to one side for a bit, and read it back another day. Suddenly you'll see it with a fresh eye, and like bits you'd forgotten you'd written.

You'll also see bits that might make you wrinkle your nose – but that's not a problem, just re-write and re-twiddle them, till it feels like you've got it right!

Find more fun activity sheets and games on www.walker.co.uk



Indie Kidd series by Karen McCombie.



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