

Narration, description and dialogue

There are three tools for developing a story:

1. **Narration**, which moves the story from point A to point B. Narration is for setting the scene, explaining the situation and the events that shape the story's reality.
2. **Description**, which creates a sensory reality for the reader. The writer serves as the reader's senses: what they feel, see, hear, smell and taste, they describe to the reader. Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's.
3. **Dialogue**, which brings characters to life through their speech. Talk, whether ugly or beautiful, is an index of character.



The situation comes first. The characters –always flat and unfeatured to begin with– come next. The best stories always end up being about the people rather than the event, but what happens in between and how the writer chooses to communicate it to the reader can change the whole story.