

THE QUEST: FOLLOW YOUR IMAGINATION

You have worked hard as the bard's apprentice! The bard is thrilled with your story so far and thinks you have what it takes to become a bard. But first, you must write the full story.



PART 1: On a separate piece of paper, use the plot timeline you created and the tips below to guide you in your writing.

TIPS

- **Draw the reader in.** Start the story by introducing your characters in a unique and interesting way.
- **Show the setting instead of telling.** For example, instead of *telling* the reader that the companions are in a dark, cold forest, describe tall trees that block the light, shadows covering the ground, and *show* that it's cold by having the characters shiver and stomp their feet to keep warm.
- **Add conflict.** A little tension can pay off when your characters (companions) must work together later in the story, and it sets them up to learn an important lesson, whether that lesson is about teamwork, perseverance, or forgiveness. Dialogue is a good vehicle to introduce conflict.
- **Describe the problem and how the characters react to it.** People react to problems in different ways. Think about how each character will react to the problem (especially if they are in danger), and how that might strengthen — or weaken — the team.
- **Highlight the theme.** After the characters solve the problem, have their actions demonstrate the theme. What did your characters learn? Did the theme help them find a solution to the problem? What lesson will they carry with them? Leave the reader wanting more by providing a hint at the end of your story that the companions may face more adventures in the future!

Write notes below about how you will incorporate these tips into your story.

PART 2: On the back of this page, create an illustration for your completed story to share with the bard.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have helped the bard write an exciting story, and now you have completed your training to become a bard!

