

Cassandra Webb & Kath Unsworth

STORY BUILDING SERIES

What's happening in

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER?

Building Memorable Characters

Cassandra and Kath hope this month you can build on the brainstorming ideas from January's newsletter using the templates we created last month. Now its time to think about your characters in depth. We have three fun exercises for you to help expand on your story and hopefully create some interesting characters. Go to Cassandra's website to download this months complete Newsletter and templates. <https://www.cassandra-webb.com/> click on Educators

Print Out these Fun Templates

- To loosen up before we create a memorable character print out the mask template then cut out and use as a blindfold. Grab some paper and a pen and get doodling without peaking, you may even accidentally spark ideas for characters with this game, free your mind, but most of all have some fun.
- Doug shares a handy questionnaire for you to ask your character some questions. You can also add your own questions too.
- Add something quirky to your story by playing the What If game. We use Doug's frenemy Zip the fly in this lesson to show you how asking questions can bring out an interesting idea and refine your character and story. We hope the exercises will help you on your way to building memorable and interesting characters to shape your story.



DON'T MISS THIS ISSUE!
Download complete newsletter and Templates

FIND CAS
<https://www.cassandra-webb.com/>

ENJOY
Cassandra Webb's wonderful tips on how to create memorable Characters.

DOUG'S STORY
Meet Doug the bug's odd little Friend Zip.

PRINT OUTS
keepsake masks and colour in for fun.

FIND THE ARTIST KATH
[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/K.A.UNSWORTH/](https://www.instagram.com/k.a.unsworth/)



1

LETS DOODLE

Before we get into writing lets loosen up with a fun game.

2

DOUG'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Interview your character. Ask the important Questions

3

WHAT IF?

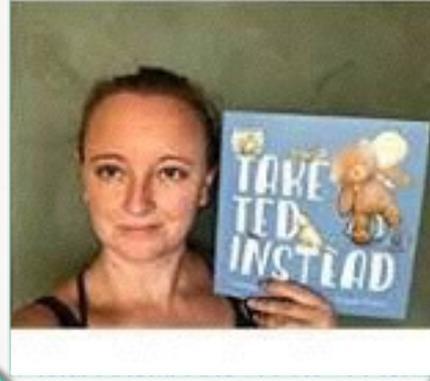
Play the what if game and see how your character and story evolve.

February Author Writing Tips

Cassandra Webb

About Cassandra

Cassandra grew up in rural Australia and remembers riding horses, working with helicopters and being homeschooled. Now on the South Coast with her husband and three children she enjoys writing every day, the beaches in summer and the nearby snowy mountains in winter.



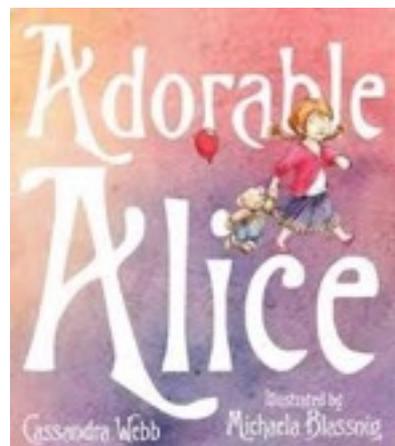
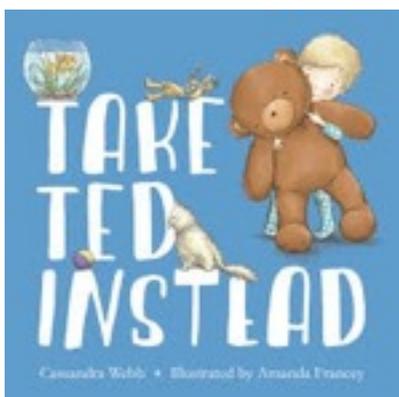
Creating Memorable Characters

I love it when the character becomes someone who I'd like to know in real life. Someone who says the jokes we would laugh at, or plays the games we'd like to play too, or has an adventure we would love to go on. Try these tricks - create a character who is two of your best friends mashed together. Create a character that is two opposites put together, like a dog that acts like a cat.

You can also work backwards. If your story will have a moment where the character blasts into space who is the best or worst or funniest character to do that job. Astronaut ant? Astronaut princess? Astronaut Alfred who can't say the letter A?

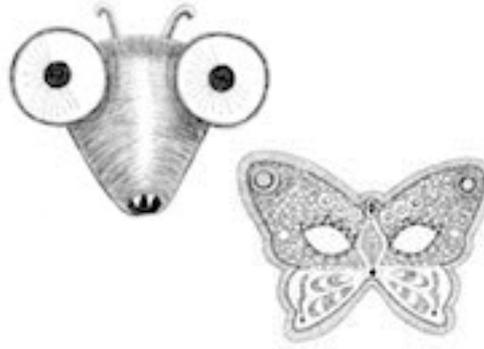
I didn't create the little boy in 'Take Ted Instead', in fact the character could have been a boy, or a girl, or a cat. I wrote the words that the character said "no, no, take ted instead." and the illustrator designed the character. We both just knew it had to be someone young who would enjoy hiding from their mum.

You could write with friends, one of you choose the dialogue or actions, and the other design the best, or worst, character to do the talking or actions. And always have fun,



Exercise 1.

Lets Get Doodling



What you will need'

1. Scissors
2. Hole punch
3. String
4. Paper to Doodle on
5. Colour pencils if you wish to colour in mask later and keep.

Print out the mask template on paper you can glue onto stronger card then cut around when dry to make it stronger. Use as a blindfold. Don't cut holes for eyes until after blindfold doodle exercise.

Grab some paper and a pen and get doodling without peaking, you may even accidentally spark ideas for characters with this game, free your mind, but most of all have some fun. You can also fold the page and ask a classmate to doodle the head (without peaking) and you draw the body.

Exercise 2.

Doug's Questionnaire

What you will need'

1. Pen
2. Imagination

Print the questionnaire, answer the questions and create some of your own questions too.

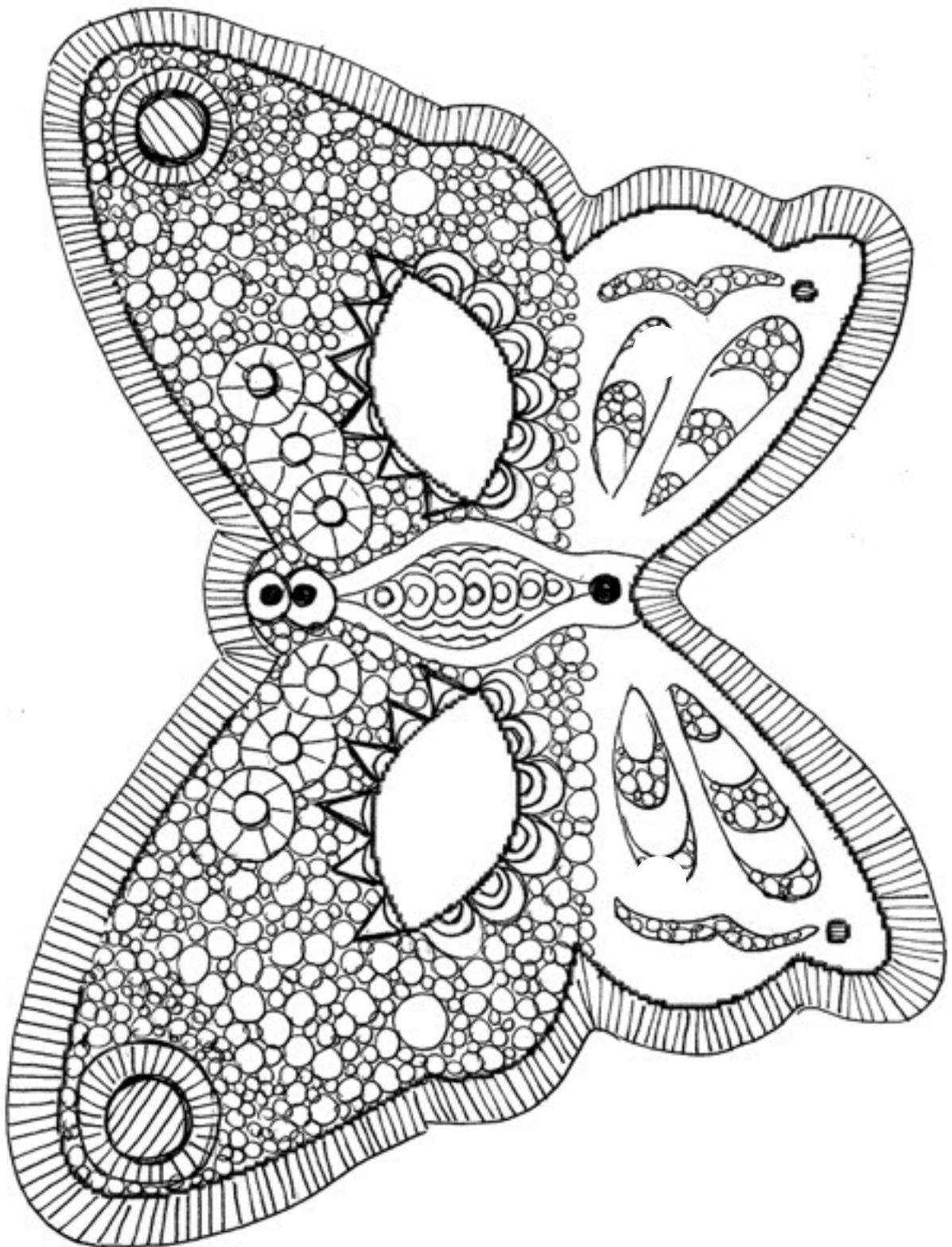
Exercise 3.

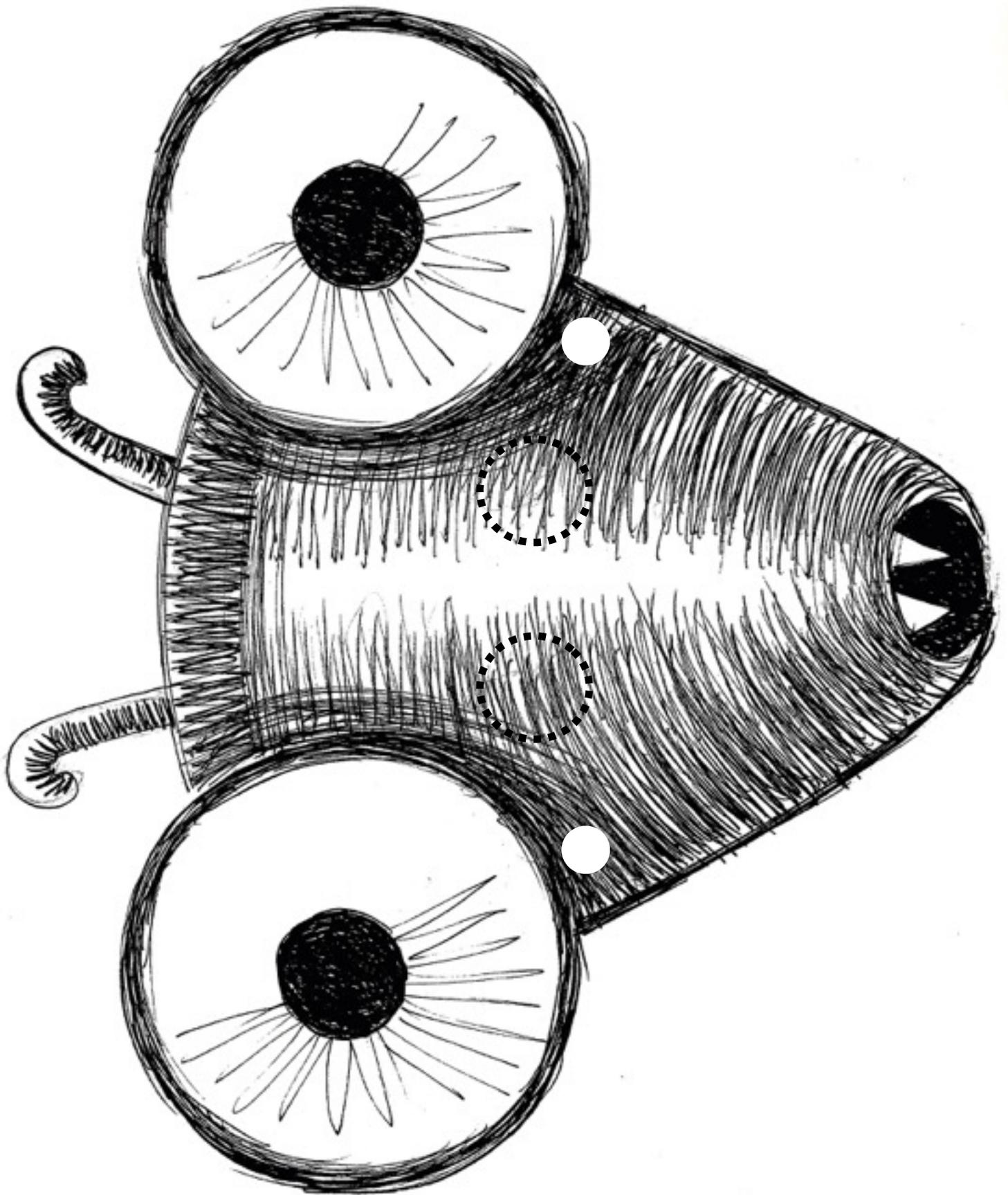
What if with Zip Game

What you will need'

1. Pen
2. Imagination

Print the information sheet, ask yourself some crazy WHAT IF questions, write them down.







Doug's Questionnaire

Get to know your characters

Character Name/Nickname/Age?

Best friend?

What is their biggest problem?

Any interesting habits/Fears?

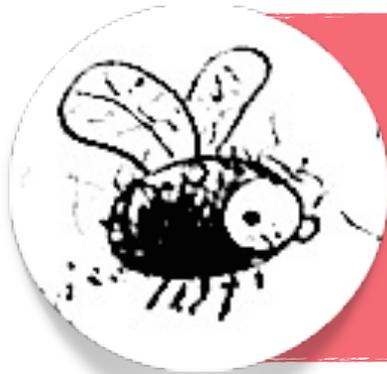
Hidden talents?

Any enemies?

Favourite place to be?

Secrets?

Other Questions?



What If? With Zip

Creating Interesting and Memorable Characters You may have to ask the BIG questions.

So now you have decided on your character and maybe you already know what your story is about, if not this little game might help.

Lets try thinking outside the box and try writing something about your character that is odd or the opposite to what is expected of them.

Using the fun play with opposites you can give your character a challenge or problem that is not something they would normally do. For example WHAT IF you know a bird who hates flying, or WHAT IF you have a fish who wants to walk. Or even better WHAT IF the bird meets a fish who wants to fly but the bird dreams of swimming in the ocean.

Now you get it!

What if your character did something completely unexpected to what they normally do? I can use Doug as an example.

Doug is a praying mantis and in the real world he is brilliant at catching and eating other insects. But in Doug's world (story world) what if he tried and tried to catch ME? My name is Zip Im an annoying (but cute) little fly, And when he finally catches me, he cant eat me. The reader is intrigued. Why can't Doug eat me? What is Doug going to do with me instead?

Instantly we want to know more. Im Zip and every day Doug tries to catch me something funny happens and maybe just maybe we become friends. But you will have to wait until next month to find out our story.

So go ahead grab some extra paper and ask some BIG WHAT IF questions about your characters and see where it takes you. There are no correct answers just a fun way to discover you really do have a wonderful imagination.

WHAT IF? write down your best ideas here