

# SUMMERTIME STORIES

Creative writing competition for children

With Charles Lea from Read Now Write Now.



## Train Trip to Crosby Beach and Another Place



This story has a scary theme. It does not, however, have to have a scary ending.

One of the most frightening things for children, and adults, is the thought of inanimate objects coming to life. Think, Victorian porcelain dolls, puppets and statues or mannequins. The thought of such objects, which look like human beings, moving, walking, talking, perhaps even breathing is uncanny which can mean it is magical, eerie and/or spooky.

In this story I am going to suggest that the Antony Gormley statues come alive.

Not only should this thought be scary enough but the reason they have come alive could also be frightening. Alternatively, once the horror of thinking and then seeing the statues come alive sinks in, their motive may not be as alarming. Perhaps they want to stretch their legs or want to sit down after all those years of standing. Perhaps they do want to do something more sinister.

## What will you do in your story?

### Plan your story

I always advise writers to plan their story before they write it. Knowing how the story will end before you write it is a really good way of helping you finish it. Too many times have I seen writers, even myself, get stuck because we have not planned our stories.

There are five basic parts to a short story. Have a read, a think and make some notes in the boxes to help you think of your story. Have a look at the top tips page too.

### Set the scene:

You have arrived at Crosby Beach via Merseyrail and you are now looking out at the sea. In your story, tell me that you have arrived by train and where you have come from.

In the box below tell me what the weather is like and what you can see, hear, smell and taste. If it helps why not draw what you can see on the beach. For example:

- Is it raining or sunny?
- In the distance you can see New Brighton;
- There might be giant ships coming into or out of the port of Liverpool.
- As well as the statues, who might be on the beach?

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Obviously there are 100 life like cast iron sculptures hanging around on the beach. Don't forget to put these down too. To build up some tension, tell us what you think of the statues. (For the purposes of this story it might be best to say something like you are sure they are watching you...)

## Build Up

This is where you introduce yourself and perhaps any friends and family you would like to be in your story. Tell us a bit about yourself, what do you look like and where have you come from today. In your story, you have come to Crosby Beach to see the statues, have a picnic and play games. Again, to build tension, maybe someone has told you that there is a rumour that the statues come to life. Write down notes in the box below to help you.

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## Dilemma

Now, as you are enjoying your day out, you feel, you hear and then you see! The statues are coming alive! Tell me how you feel at seeing the statues moving, especially if they are moving towards you. Showing emotion is really important in scary stories. Are you scared? Frightened? Your body might be reacting too, for example your heart could be beating faster and sweat pours from your forehead.

What are the statues doing? Are they wanting a sit down, want to have a walk along the beach or are they up to something darker? Perhaps they want to swap you for one of them and plant you on the beach forever. Write down notes in the box below to help you.

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## Solution

What are you going to do? Can your friends or family help too? Perhaps one of them has been captured by the statues. Are you going to try and escape and call the police or are you going to, literally, put the statues back in their place?

In some scary stories there is no solution. Maybe the statues are zombies and have eaten all of you? As usual, write down your notes in the box below.

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## The Ending

Well I hope you have survived and saved the day. If so, let us finish the story on a high and go and have an ice cream or something else which you like. If you haven't survived, what happens to the rest of the world?

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And there you have the plan to your story. Now it is time to write it. Type your story up, get an adult to read the rules and then submit either by dropping it off at any underground station, Blundellsands and Crosby or West Kirby Stations or submit it online by going to [www.merseyrail.org/summertimestories](http://www.merseyrail.org/summertimestories). Don't forget to read our top tips page for help too.

**Best of luck.**