

**Thinking about a mystery or ghost story:**

Sometimes it is helpful to have a prompt to start you off when writing a mystery or ghost story. You might like to use one of the following to help you:

**Use one of the following titles for your story:**

The Withered Arm

The Engineer's Thumb

The Signalman

The Monkey's Paw

Christmas Carol

**Use one or all of the following in your opening lines:**

A murder

A mysterious death

A stormy night

Footsteps ringing out on the pavement

Wind howling

Rain beating against the windows

A steam train making its way through the countryside

A narrator recounting their frightening experience

Someone alone

A car with its alarm going but no one around

Foggy weather

An animal crying or whining

Remember: ghost or mystery stories do not involve a lot of blood and/or gore. Their success lies in the way the writer builds up tension through the setting, the plot and the description of characters.

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