



## Step 7: Exciting Endings

# SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Series One

### A common problem with kids' stories is they end on an anticlimax

Take this sports story: Belinda begs to join the volleyball team, but she isn't very good. Jackie the captain helps her and gradually a friendship forms. In the final game, Jackie is injured but now it's Belinda's turn to help. At match point, she sets a perfect ball to Jackie. Here's the last sentence.

*Jackie jumped high, hope giving her strength and she hit the ball hard. It landed right in the corner. They'd won! Then they all went home to bed.*

Why has the writer tacked on that last line? The answer is kids feel something is missing, but they don't know what. We need to show young writers that there are often two parts to ending a story - the action climax and the 'inner' story.

This story is not just about volleyball, it needs a celebration of the friendship that has grown between the two girls. *'We did it! We won!' Everyone was yelling and hugging each other. But Jackie just turned and looked at Belinda. 'Great set,' she said. Belinda laughed. 'Great hit' she said. At last she really was part of the team.*

### TOP TIP:

Solve the action part of the story (like winning the final game) but also allow for the characters and their inner journey to be celebrated too.



### ACTION ACTIVITY:

Many authors actually get their ending first - and then figure out the story working backwards. Here's a fun ending: 'Crocodiles don't like fly spray.'

Try brainstorming with your kids what the story could be. You can be as crazy as you like!


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