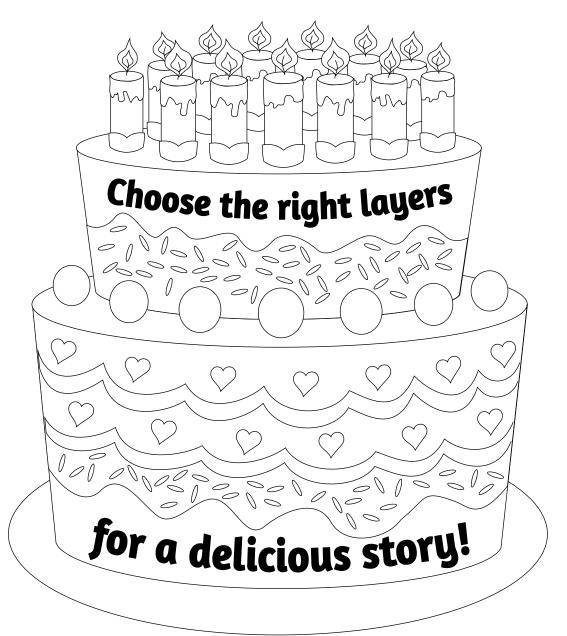
How to Write a Cake



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Write a Cake:

Choose the Right Layers for a Delicious Story!

Note: Use the extra pages at the end of this worksheet packet if you need more room for a writing exercise.

1. Every basic cake starts with the same ingredients: In baking, those ingredients are eggs, flour, butter, milk, and sugar. In writing, you have characters, setting, question, complication, and answer (or beginning, middle, and end). What are the "ingredients" for your story? Make a list to include your main character, setting, question, complication and answer.	Sugar

2. A Basic Cake is Still a Cake: Write the "cake" of your story in one to three sentences.
3. Cake is Better with Frosting: What details make your basic "cake" story uniquely yours? What is special about your particular main character? Why is it set in the location you have chosen? Write your details here.

4. Layers Make a Cake Special: What is one extra layer that you can add to your story? Add another character for your protagonist to interact with. A new setting for them to explore. An added complication to overcome. Looking at the basic "cake of your story and your "frosting" details, what is ONE layer that you can add? How will this extra layer change your story? Set a timer for 5 minutes and write a paragraph that includes this new element. The paragraph could be a new opening for your story, or write one that goes somewhere in the middle. It's up to you!
5. Decorations turn a simple (or not-so-simple) Cake into an Event. There's a distinct difference between a layer cake, a Birthday Cake, and a Wedding Cake. It's all about the decorations! What are some details you can add to your story to make it memorable for your readers? Make sure to incorporate all five senses. What does it look like? What do you hear? Smell? Taste Feel? Set a timer for 15 minutes and decorate your paragraph with all of the sensory detail.

6. Keep Adding Extra Layers! A 3-layer cake with delicious frosting can make a birthday party special. But a seven-layer rainbow cake, with a Swiss buttercream icing coated in sprinkles will be talked about for years! Don't be afraid to add extra layers to your story, to keep building up the deliciousness of the tale. Set a timer for 10 minutes and make a list of as many extra layers as you can think of. Look way outside the box for inspiration. Dare to be silly. Embrace the unexpected!

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that the details, l	mbellishments Fit your Cake? As you work on your story cake, remember layers, and embellishments you choose can set the scene for your whole story. It your embellishments match in tone throughout your story, or do you switch to a different style of "cake" halfway through? Are you writing the cake that fits the genre and style of the book you're trying to write? Or are you accidentally writing a YA novel cake with picture book frosting? Is the cake you're actively writing the one you want to have in the end? If not, what will you change about your story "cake," or your "decoration" and "frosting" details?

9. Surprise! Like a piñata confetti cake, surprises and twists can be fun. It can be something big, like an evil-twin plot twist, or something simple, like a surprise shout-out to your favorite real-life bakery. Set a timer for 10 minutes and think of as many twists and surprises as you can that might fit your story. Then try it out! Choose one twist and write a paragraph or two that works it into your story. But be careful! Remember, too many embellishments or a poorly-placed twist can make your cake collapse. You don't have to add every surprise you think of to your story.

10. **Don't Forget the Cake!** Don't get so caught up in adding the accents, embellishments, and extra layers that you overwhelm the basic story. After all is said and done, it should still all boil down to that basic structure: character and setting, with a question, a complication, and an answer. Read through your manuscript. Are there any places where the frosting is so thick that it overwhelms the story? What decorations can you cut out to bring the focus back to your cake?



11. When all else fails, make cake pops! Sometimes, you write a story, and it just does	S
not work. That's okay! The great thing about cakes and stories is that you can make something delicious out of even the worst "failures." In baking, you can turn the mess into gorgeous cake pops. In writing, you can take the best parts of your worst failures and use the magical question "What if?" to spin the snippets of story into something entirely new, different, and uniquely you! Take a look at your failed manuscripts an	!
writing projects. Are there any crumbled cakes waiting to be turned into cake pops? This might be what those particular stories were trying to become all along!	
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