

# Stuck for ideas? Don't know what to write about? Use this spread to get you started!

For teachers' notes, an electronic version of this spread and other useful ideas go to [wearewriters.com/worldbookday](http://wearewriters.com/worldbookday)



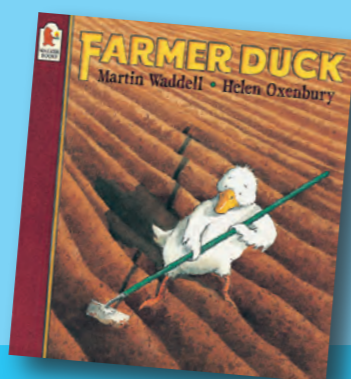
**MARTIN WADDELL**

**AGES 5-7**

Martin Waddell was born near the mountains in Newcastle, County Down and has lived there nearly his whole life. He has been an author for over 45 years and has written award-winning books, including *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* and *Farmer Duck*.

## MARTIN'S TOP 3 WRITING TIPS

1. Write about something that really matters to you because if it matters to you it will matter to your audience as well.
2. Good stories usually have something upsetting happen in them but which can be put right at the end.
3. You don't have to live in or travel to exotic places to be an author – most of my ideas come from something that has happened 200 metres in front of me.



**Did you know that when Martin was a teenager he moved to England to become a professional footballer with Fulham?**

## STORY STARTER

*Farmer Duck* is about a lazy and fat farmer who spends all day in bed, while his poor duck has to do all the work on the farm. One evening, the exhausted duck collapses in tears, to be comforted by the chickens. The farm animals decide something has to be done and start to hatch a plan...

**Write a story about what would happen if the farm animals' plan worked and the lazy and fat farmer was kicked off the farm.**

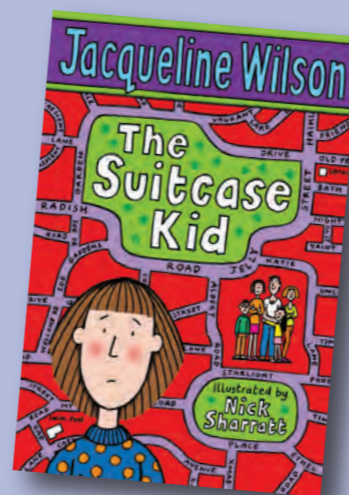
Illustrations from *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell © 1991 Helen Oxenbury, published by Walker Books.



**JACQUELINE WILSON**

**AGES 8-11**

Jacqueline Wilson is one of the most popular and recognised children's authors in the UK. Perhaps best known for her *Tracy Beaker* series, other favourite books include *The Bed and Breakfast Star*, *Cliffhanger* and *The Suitcase Kid*.



**Jacqueline can write anywhere – at her kitchen table, in the back of a car and once even standing up in the queue at the post office.**

## JACQUELINE'S TOP 3 WRITING TIPS

1. Read lots – this is not to copy other people's ideas but the more you read the more it will enrich your imagination so you can come up with ideas of your own.
2. Keep a diary – children tell me all the time they want to be a writer but they don't actually write. Keeping a diary will get you into a habit of writing everyday.
3. Don't be too tough on yourself – if you get fed up with your story it doesn't matter you can put it down and start afresh.

## STORY STARTER

*The Suitcase Kid* is about a little girl called Andy who, since her parents split up has found herself living out of a suitcase. She spends one week with her Mum's new family and one week with her Dad's. But what Andy really wants is for things to go back to how they were before the divorce...

**Write a story or acrostic poem about a difficult situation that someone could face in a real-life story. Follow the similar alphabetical chapter structure of *The Suitcase Kid*.**

Illustrations from *The Suitcase Kid* by Jacqueline Wilson © 1992 Nick Sharratt, published by Random House Children's Books.



**PHILIP REEVE**

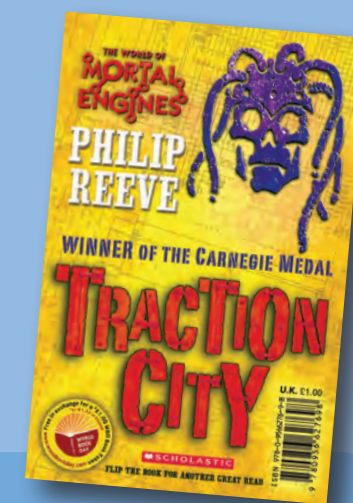
**AGES 11+**

Philip Reeve was born and raised in Brighton and has been writing stories since he was 5. Philip became a published author in 2001 with *Mortal Engines* - winner of the Nestlé Book Prize Award 2002. *Mortal Engines* is the first book in a gripping adventure series set in an inspired fantasy world, where moving cities trawl the globe.

## PHILIP'S TOP 3 WRITING TIPS

1. Write about things you want to write about, not the things you think other people want you to write about.
2. Think of the plot as a washing line on which you get to peg out all your good ideas.
3. If you're writing about a fantasy world it's important to go into details. Try visualising everything as clearly as possible in your head and then describe it as well as you can.

**Unlike the characters in his books, Philip never yearned for adventures growing up – he was quite happy just reading about them.**



## STORY STARTER

*Traction City* is the new spine-chilling story from the sensational world of *Mortal Engines*. Set deep down in the metal heart of the great Traction City of London, a ruthless killer is a work... **Buy *Traction City* using your £1.00 voucher this World Book Day.**

**Write a beginning that drops you straight into the middle of something strange or exciting and makes you want to know what's happening and what will happen next.**

Illustrations from *Traction City* by Philip Reeve © 2011 David Wyatt, published by Scholastic Children's Books.

**Ready to get started?**  
**Log on to [wearewriters.com](http://wearewriters.com)**