**#1 Involve Their Interests**

‘Write what you know’ is one of the basic guidelines. This is especially important to remember when encouraging boys who are reluctant to write, since pushing them outside of comfort zones can be overwhelming. Place value on boys’ interests and the knowledge which they already have by encouraging them to write about their hobbies, favourite topics or other activities.

**#2 The Wonder of What-ifs**

Boys often think of “make-believe” and “playing pretend” as “girl” activities. Since they encourage imagination, boys who resist those activities are missing out on creative opportunities. With a game of “what-ifs” boys can be encouraged to explore their imagination too.

After reading a book or watching a movie together, ask your student or son, “what do you think would have happened if…” and present him with a different plot development. Encourage him to ask his own “what-if” questions and then write down his thoughts. The freedom to change a story to his liking will make it fun!

**#3 Involve Technology**

Projects that include computers and technology are an instant hit with boys. We know they already use computers for social activities. While they are on chat and game sites, encourage boys to explore the writing opportunities that are just a click away. The internet provides communities, inspiration and motivators that can engage boys with writing.

**#4 Utilize Artwork**

Pictures and images can be great motivators for boys who are visual learners. The images give them a concrete beginning to build on, which is less frustrating for them than abstract ideas.

Ask your student or son to draw a picture of an activity he enjoys or his favourite characters from a comic, movie or book. Next ask him to tell the story of what is happening in his picture – encourage him to include backstory and what he thinks will happen next. Artwork can also be utilized for boys who are resistant to drawing. Ask them to find a picture they like in a magazine or book and to write about that instead.

**#5 Genres Rule!**

If boys do not enjoy reading fiction, they most likely will not enjoy writing it either. Make it okay for them to write other genres – non-fiction, science fiction, mysteries, etc.

Include the sports they like to play or watch. Encourage them to be a Sports Writers and write a recap of the football game they watched on Saturday afternoon. If your son enjoys mysteries, ask him to be a Detective (complete with a Detective hat and notepad) and find something that is missing in your house. Most likely the initial search mission will take him on an adventure that he will be eager to write about and share later.

Taken from: http://gettingboystoread.com/content/ideas-get-boys-writing/

* Choose subjects your child loves, whether that is dinosaurs, superheroes, shopping or football.  Your child will write best if they write about topics that they know about or that are hobbies.
* Laying a story out visually can help.  Work with your child to develop a “story map” where you draw pictures of key elements of a story in a line and build a piece of writing from there. Boys are often visual learners so this can work particularly well for them.
* Thinking about character and location before beginnings, middle and ends can help. Start by asking ‘Where is the story going to happen? In space? In the desert?’ and ‘Who is your main character? Who are the other characters?’
* Ask your child to think “what if?” to various scenarios.  What if a film you have watched together had ended differently or the book characters met in a different country?  Giving a child the freedom to adapt a story will make it fun.
* Keep a box of interesting objects to weave into a story, or get things started with an interesting first or last line. Playing verbal games such as ‘Luckily, Unluckily’, (in which you make up a story by starting alternative lines with the word luckily or unluckily) can also be good practice for thinking of plot twists!
* It’s not just about fiction; boys in particular often enjoy reading non-fiction so may well prefer writing other genres.  Your child may prefer to draw a comic strip, write a report of a football match they have watched or a computer game they have played, or make up a recipe instead of writing a traditional story.
* Why not put together a range of writing types to make your own family book, magazine or newspaper?
* Look out for children’s writing competitions – you can often find one on the [National Literacy Trust website.](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/)
* Be appreciative of the time and effort your child has put in to a piece of writing; if they are having fun and feel good about their work they will be more likely to persevere.

Taken from: http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/getting-boys-write

Games you can buy:

**Dixit** – a really fab board game you can buy (I got mine from Amazon) that encourages imagination and storytelling, but is also fun for adults!

**Story Dice** – You can buy sets from Waterstones, but they can easily be bought online too. Good for story prompts.

**Story War Board Game** – Combines competition and storytelling… always a winner! There are ‘warrior’ cards and you ‘battle’ using the art of storytelling.

**Tell Tale/Tell Tale Fairy Tales** – Again, these cards can be bought on Amazon and they come in a tin similar to Dobble. You use the pictures to inspire and tell stories. Can be done as a competition or just used to tell stories.

Other Ideas:

When on a walk, collect some random objects in a bag as you go – the more unusual the better. When you get home, use the items in the bag to tell a story together. If you didn’t want to collect items to take home, just tell the story as you walk using anything you see around you to inspire the plot.

Use classical paintings (abstract ones too) you see in art galleries and museums, telling the story of the person or place that they see in the painting. This is a good game for inventing characters and describing settings.

Listen to a piece of music and tell the story behind it. It could be a lyrical piece of modern music, so you have to retell the ‘plot’ of the song in your own words, or a piece of classical music with no words where you imagine your own story based on the ‘mood’ of the music.