

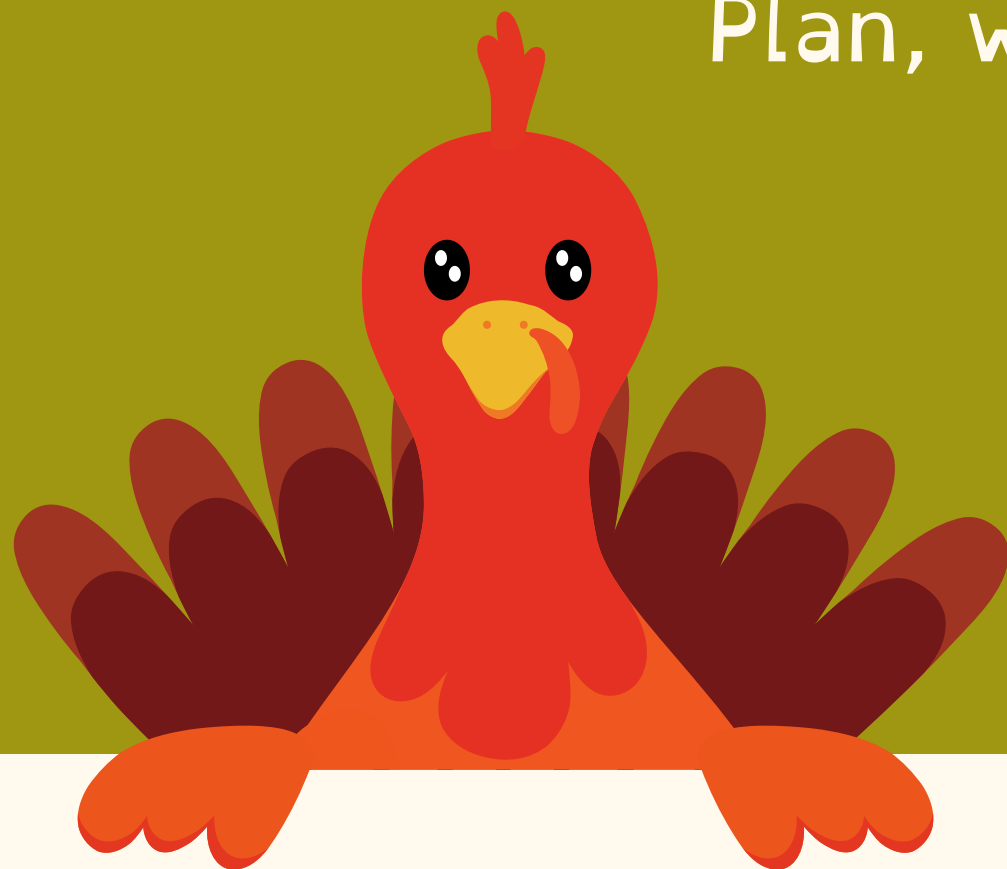


G2-6

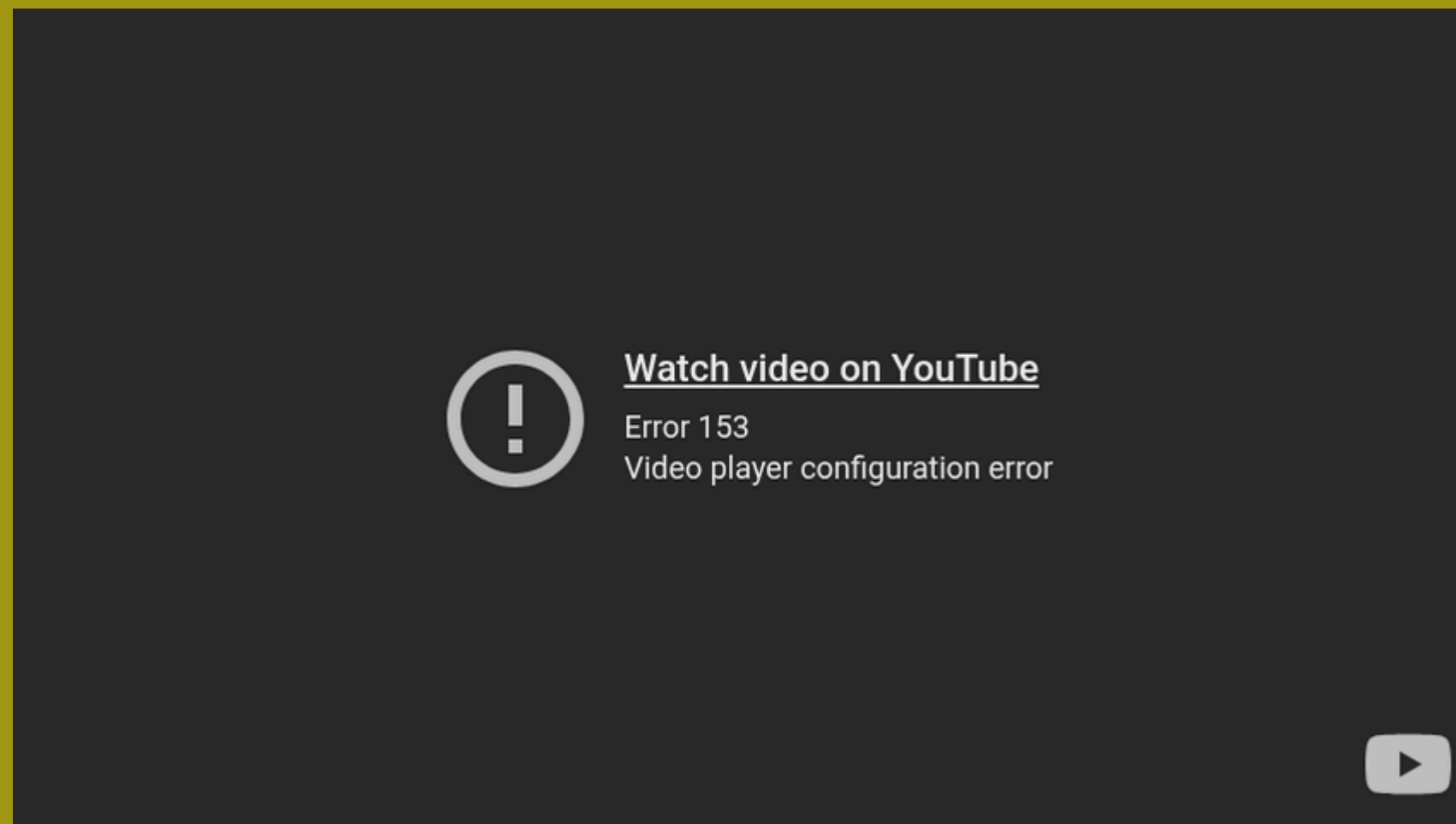
Thanksgiving

Writing Project

Plan, write, publish your story in Build My Story



Mini-Lesson



While you watch...

- Note one person
- One place
- One small moment you are thankful for

[Click For Video](#)

Gratitude Sparks

Turn to the person sitting next to you and tell them

- Your Person, Place or Small Moment



You get 2 minutes



G2-6

Session 1

Brainstorm and Plan your story

Learning Objectives

- ☐ I can think of 3+ ideas and pick my best one.
- ☐ I can sort my ideas in the boxes to make a plan.
- ☐ I can listen to a partner and add one helpful suggestion.

Choose a prompt

- Your teacher will hand out the Prompt Sheet
- Pick one idea or write your own
- Cut it out and glue on your Brainstorm sheet (or write your choice at the top)
- Keep it simple and clear

Thanksgiving		
<u>The Missing Pie</u> On Thanksgiving, your family's favorite pie is gone! Write the story of how you find out what happened.	<u>A Day as a Pilgrim</u> Pretend you are a child living a long time ago with the Pilgrims. Tell the story of your Thanksgiving day.	<u>A Thankful Moment</u> Tell a story about a time you felt very thankful. Who was there? What happened?
<u>If I Were a Turkey</u> Imagine you are a turkey. What happens when you try to escape Thanksgiving dinner?	<u>The Kids' Table</u> Would you rather sit at the kids' table or the adults' table? Tell the story of what happens.	<u>A Surprise Guest</u> Imagine someone unexpected shows up at Thanksgiving dinner. Who is it, and what happens?
<u>The Cooking Problem</u> The oven breaks right before dinner. Tell the story of how your family makes Thanksgiving work.	<u>Talking Cranberries</u> Imagine the cranberry sauce starts talking! What does it say, and what happens next?	<u>A New Tradition</u> Pretend your family tries something new for Thanksgiving this year. What is it, and how does it turn out?
<u>The Parade Balloon</u> You are at a Thanksgiving parade when a giant balloon gets loose. Tell the story of what happens.	<u>The Time Machine</u> You find a time machine on Thanksgiving Day. Where do you go, and what do you see?	<u>The Magic Wishbone</u> You win the wishbone pull, and your wish comes true. Tell the story of what happens next.
<u>Dinner in the Woods</u> Pretend your family has to eat Thanksgiving in the forest. How do you make it work?	<u>The Turkey Mystery</u> You are a detective, and the Thanksgiving turkey is missing. Tell the story of how you solve the case.	<u>The Thankful Adventure</u> Imagine you collect "thankfulness" in a jar. What happens when you use it?

Make your idea small and specific

- One moment, not the whole day
- One place, not lots of locations
 - One problem to focus on
- If your idea is too big, zoom in!





Thanksgiving

Name: _____

Date: _____

?

Pick a prompt from the list or make up your own idea. Use this space to plan your story. Write words, draw bubbles, or list details that will help you tell what happens.

The Kids' Table

Would you rather sit at the kids' table or the adults' table? Tell the story of what happens.



Who was there?

Where did it happen?

What happened first?

How did I feel?

What did I learn?



☒ Brainstorm ☐ Plan ☐ Write ☐ Build My Story

Brainstorm your ideas

 You get 10 minutes

- Use the Brainstorm sheet
- Words or quick sketches
- Use your senses
- Fill the page

Use the word bank to help

Word Bank

- family	- serve
- cousin	- taste
- grandma	- spill
- grandpa	- mix
- aunt	- deliver
- uncle	- travel
- neighbor	- share
- friend	- sizzle
- teacher	- crackle
- coach	- chatter
- kitchen	- crunch
- dining room	- ding
- backyard	- laugh
- porch	- buttery
- living room	- spicy
- park	- sweet
- school	- salty
- grandma's house	- smoky
- turkey	- cinnamon
- mashed potatoes	- vanilla
- gravy	- warm
- stuffing	- fresh
- cranberry sauce	- golden
- pumpkin pie	- crispy
- bread rolls	- creamy
- rice	- cozy
- noodles	- bright
- tamales	- thankful
- curry	- excited
- corn	- nervous
- cook	- surprised
- chop	- happy
- stir	- peaceful
- whisk	- brave
- bake	- frosty
- roast	- rainy
- carve	- sunny
- season	- evening
- set the table	- autumn
	- holiday

Linking Words & Phrases

- first	- because
- next	- so
- then	- therefore
- after that	- as a result
- later	- since
- meanwhile	- due to
- finally	- for example
- at last	- for instance
- and	- such as
- also	- in particular
- in addition	- before
- another	- during
- as well as	- after
- moreover	- today
- furthermore	- yesterday
- but	- tomorrow
- however	- here
- although	- there
- even though	- especially
- instead	- importantly
- on the other hand	- above all
- yet	- in the end
- while	- overall
	- in conclusion

Thanksgiving Program

G 3-5



Turn to the person next to you and ask...



- Who is in your story?
- Where does it happen?
- When does it happen?



You get 2 minutes

Story Mountain overview



You get 15 minutes

Thanksgiving

What goes wrong?

Climax (Problem)

Name: _____

Rising Action (Build-up)

What was the problem solved?

Falling Action (Resolution)

Exposition (Beginning)

Ending

BUILD MY STORY

Climax:

Show the BIG problem or exciting event.

Rising Action:

Show what your characters are doing and build up to the problem.

Exposition (Beginning):

Introduce your setting and characters

Falling Action:

Show how the characters try to solve the problem and what happens next.

Ending:

Show how everything finishes and how the characters feel.

Turn to the person next to you and ask...

- What is the BIG moment?
- How do things finish and how do they feel at the end?



You get 2 minutes



Build your main character



You get 10 minutes

- Name and age
- Are they Human, Animal or Fictional
- What colors are they wearing, do they wear glasses
- Looks and clothing
- One memorable detail



Character Profile

Name: _____

Date: _____

? This page helps you create your main character for your story. You'll fill in details about who they are, what they look like, and even draw them. Later, you'll use this profile to guide your writing and bring your character to life in Build My Story.

My Character Is: ☐ A Human ☐ An Animal ☐ Fictional

Character Name

How Old Is Your Character?
_____ Years Old

Draw Your Character 

What do they look like?

What are they wearing?

☐ Brainstorm

☒ Plan

☐ Write

☐ Build My Story

www.buildmystory.com

Wrap Up & Next Time

Before you go – check

- Do you have a main character?
- Is there a beginning, middle and end?
- Is your name on every sheet?



Please hand in
your amazing
work so far!

Next time – your writing choices

- Summary → Help me write (bring 4–6 sentences)
- Full draft → Type it myself (aim for ≤ 200 words)

Learning Objectives

- ☒ I can think of 3+ ideas and pick my best one.
- ☒ I can sort my ideas in the boxes to make a plan.
- ☒ I can listen to a partner and add one helpful suggestion.

G2-6

Session 2

Write Your Story

Learning Objectives

- ☐ I can turn my plan into a draft.
- ☐ I can use words like first / next / because to connect ideas.
- ☐ I can add a detail so my writing is clearer.

The 5-part story frame

1

Exposition (Beginning):

Introduce your setting and characters

2

Rising Action:

Show what your character is doing and build up to the problem.

3

Climax:

Show the BIG problem or exciting event.

4

Falling Action:

Show how the character tries to solve the problem and what happens next.

5

Ending:

Show how everything finishes and how the character feels.

Choose your path

Either path is great — pick the one that helps you do your best

PATH A

BUILD MY STORY Option 1: Story Summary

? You are the storyteller!
Use your Story Mountain to write a short version of your story. Just a few lines is all you need.
Build My Story will help you turn it into a full book!

+ + + +

Beginning **Rising Action** **Climax** **Resolution** **Reflection**

I was...

Then...

Suddenly...

Because of that, I...

In the end,...

☐ Brainstorm ☐ Plan ☒ Write ☐ Build My Story

Story Summary
(4–6 sentences)

OR

PATH B

BUILD MY STORY Page 1

Page 2

Page 3

Author Name

☐ Brainstorm ☐ Plan ☒ Write ☐ Build My Story **BUILD MY STORY**

Full Draft
(About 500 words)

Only as much as you can do

Path A: Story Summary — 4–6 sentences



1) Who + where (Exposition)



2) Want + problem (Rising Action)



3) BIG moment (Climax)



4) What they try / what happens next (Falling Action)



5) How it ends + feeling (Ending)

A Thankful Moment

Tell a story about a time you felt very thankful. Who was there? What happened?

Example Story Summary 1

-  1) On Thanksgiving at Grandma Rosa's house, I was with my parents and little brother.
-  2) We wanted a cozy dinner, but a storm cut the power and the turkey was raw.
-  3) The big moment came when our neighbor, Mrs. Lee, arrived with hot rice and a lantern.
-  4) We grilled the turkey outside, shared food, and told stories by the glow.
-  5) Dinner worked after all, and I felt thankful for our neighbors and my family.

Example Story Summary 2

A Thankful Moment

Tell a story about a time you felt very thankful. Who was there? What happened?

-  1) On Thanksgiving morning at the community center, my class packed food boxes.
-  2) I wanted to help everyone, but we ran out of cans and families were still waiting.
-  3) The big moment came when my grandpa arrived with extra bags from our neighbors.
-  4) We filled every box, added kind notes, and carried them to the cars.
-  5) People smiled and said thank you, and I felt proud and thankful for Grandpa and our town.

Path B: Full Draft - About 500 words

- Around 500 words total - do as much or as little as you can!
- Short sentences
- Use this order:

Beginning → Build-up → BIG moment → Fixing it → Ending + feeling



Draft guide

- Beginning — 2–3 lines
- Build-up — 3–5 lines
- BIG moment — 2–3 lines
- Fixing it — 3–4 lines
- Ending + feeling — 2–3 lines

Write on the worksheet page by page. Think about the Story Mountain and follow the icons.

Page 1

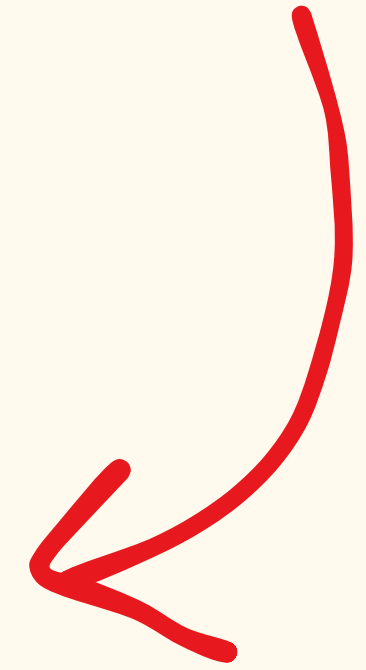
Page 2

Page 3

Author Name

☐ Brainstorm ☐ Plan ☒ Write ☐ Build My Story

BUILD MY STORY



Show, don't tell

Tell → I was happy.

Show → I grinned and bounced in my chair.

Tell → It smelled good.

Show → Butter popped and cinnamon filled the kitchen.

Swap one “tell” for a “show.”

Write Time!



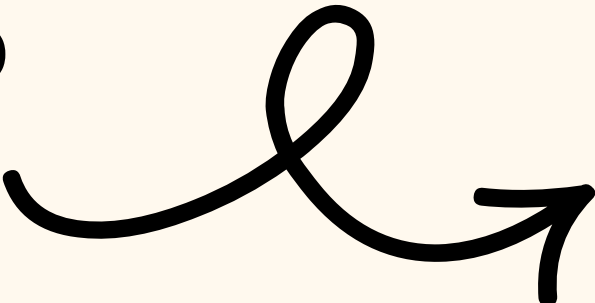
You get 20 minutes

Summary path: finish 5 sentences.

Draft path: aim for 300-500 words.

Tip: Use 2–3 linking words.

Use the word bank to help



Word Bank

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| - family | - serve |
| - cousin | - taste |
| - grandma | - spill |
| - grandpa | - mix |
| - aunt | - deliver |
| - uncle | - travel |
| - neighbor | - share |
| - friend | - sizzle |
| - teacher | - crackle |
| - coach | - chatter |
| - kitchen | - crunch |
| - dining room | - ding |
| - backyard | - laugh |
| - porch | - buttery |
| - living room | - spicy |
| - park | - sweet |
| - school | - salty |
| - grandma's house | - smoky |
| - turkey | - cinnamon |
| - mashed potatoes | - vanilla |
| - gravy | - warm |
| - stuffing | - fresh |
| - cranberry sauce | - golden |
| - pumpkin pie | - crispy |
| - bread rolls | - creamy |
| - rice | - cozy |
| - noodles | - bright |
| - tamales | - thankful |
| - curry | - excited |
| - corn | - nervous |
| - cook | - surprised |
| - chop | - happy |
| - stir | - peaceful |
| - whisk | - brave |
| - bake | - frosty |
| - roast | - rainy |
| - carve | - sunny |
| - season | - evening |
| - set the table | - autumn |
| | - holiday |

Linking Words & Phrases

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| - first | - because |
| - next | - so |
| - then | - therefore |
| - after that | - as a result |
| - later | - since |
| - meanwhile | - due to |
| - finally | - for example |
| - at last | - for instance |
| - and | - such as |
| - also | - in particular |
| - in addition | - before |
| - another | - during |
| - as well as | - after |
| - moreover | - today |
| - furthermore | - yesterday |
| - but | - tomorrow |
| - however | - here |
| - although | - there |
| - even though | - especially |
| - instead | - importantly |
| - on the other hand | - above all |
| - yet | - in the end |
| - while | - overall |
| | - in conclusion |

Thanksgiving Program

G 3-5



Swap your worksheet with the person next to you

3 quick checks (circle or say Yes/No)

- 1) Does it follow the 5 parts? Beginning → Build-up → BIG moment → Fixing it → Ending
- 2) Are there 2–3 linking words? (first, next, then, after that, because, so, finally...)
- 3) Is there one “show, don’t tell” sentence?

Fix one thing, then put your name on your work.



You get 2 minutes

Learning Objectives

- ☒ I can turn my plan into a draft.
- ☒ I can use words like first / next / because to connect ideas.
- ☒ I can add a detail so my writing is clearer.

G2-6

Session 3

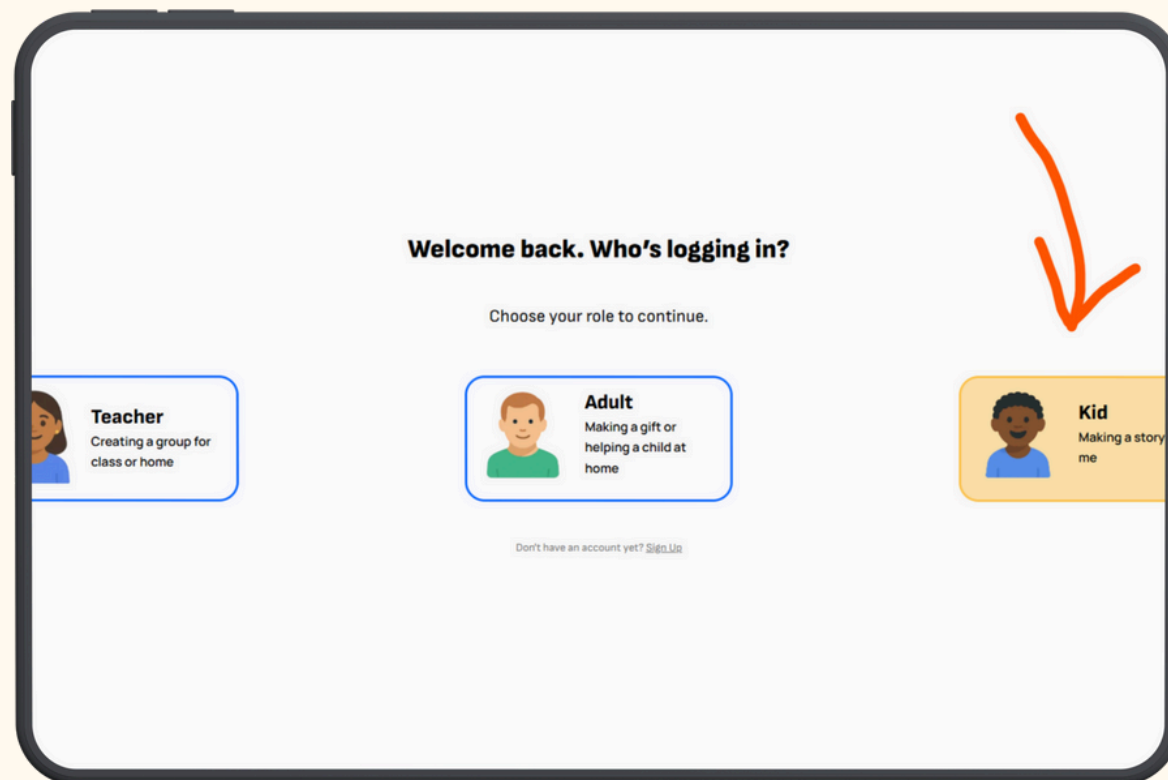
Build Your Story

Learning Objectives

- ☐ I can revise my draft story to make it clearer
- ☐ I can fix capitals, punctuation, and spelling.
- ☐ I can type my story and give it a great title.
- ☐ I can publish a book!
- ☐ I can make an AI picture

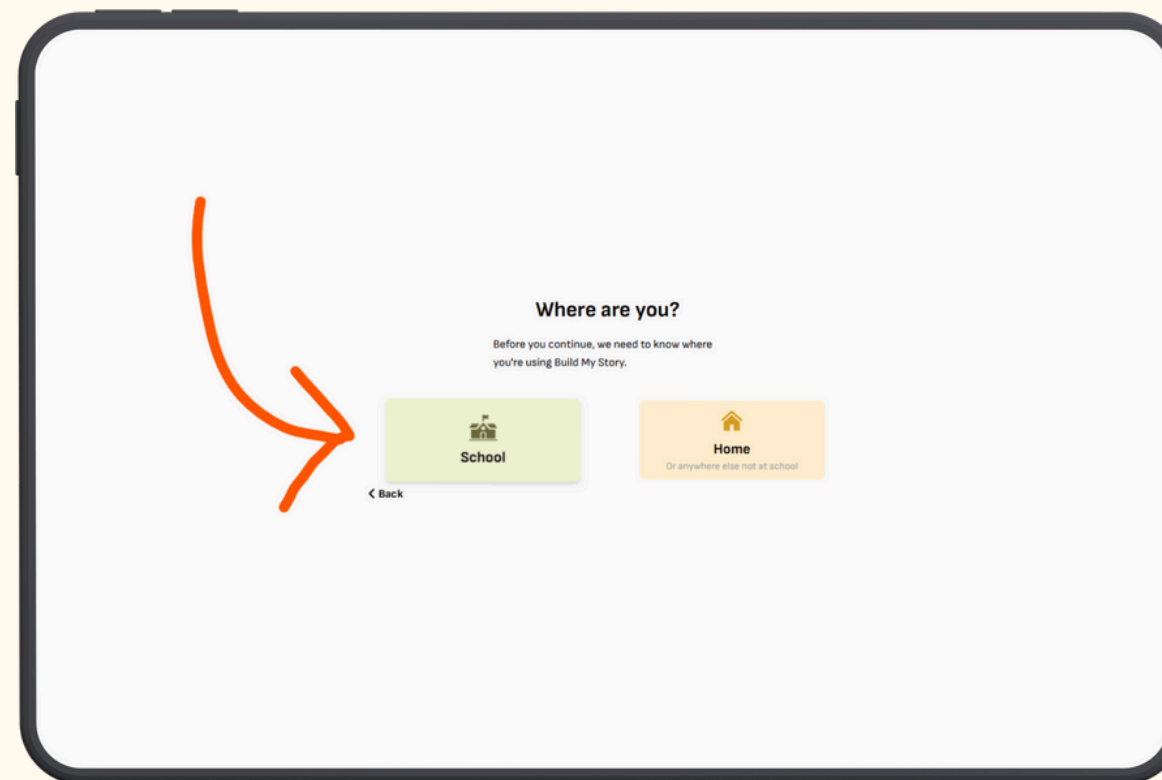
Sign in

1



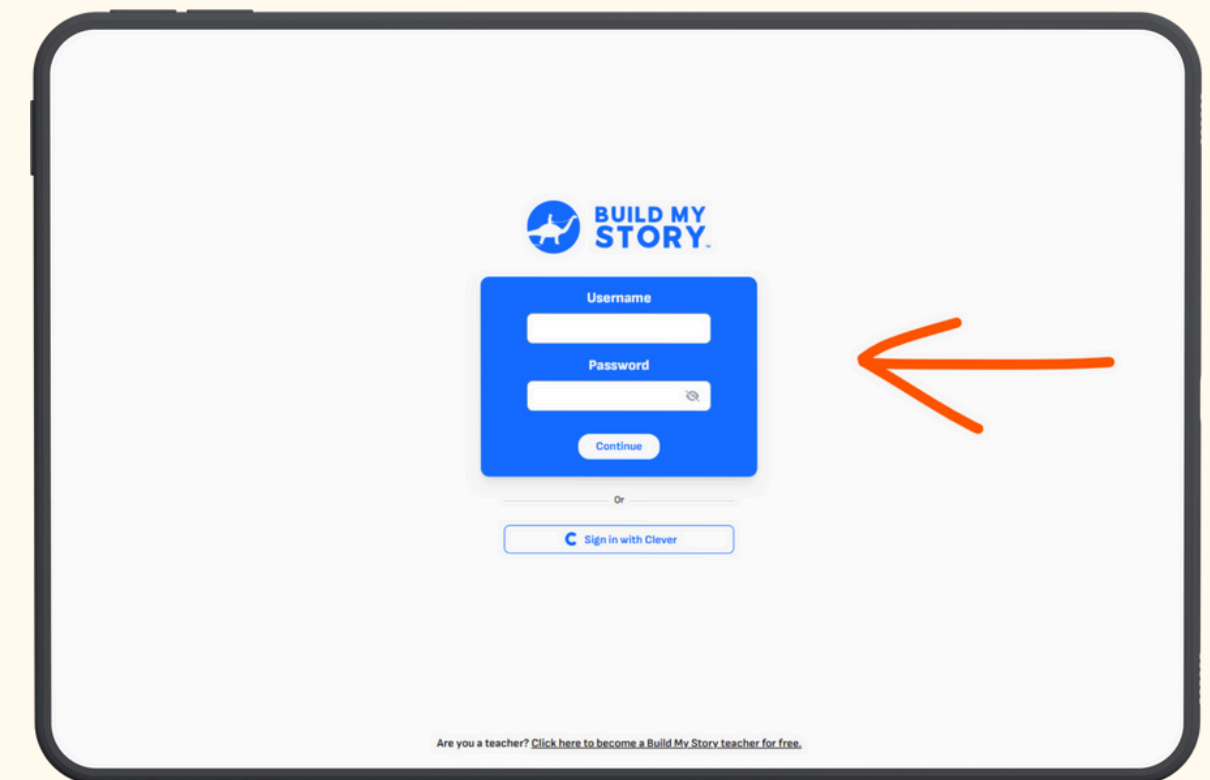
Open Build My Story

2



Tap Kid to sign in

3



Log in using username

Your teacher will help with usernames or Clever or Google Classroom

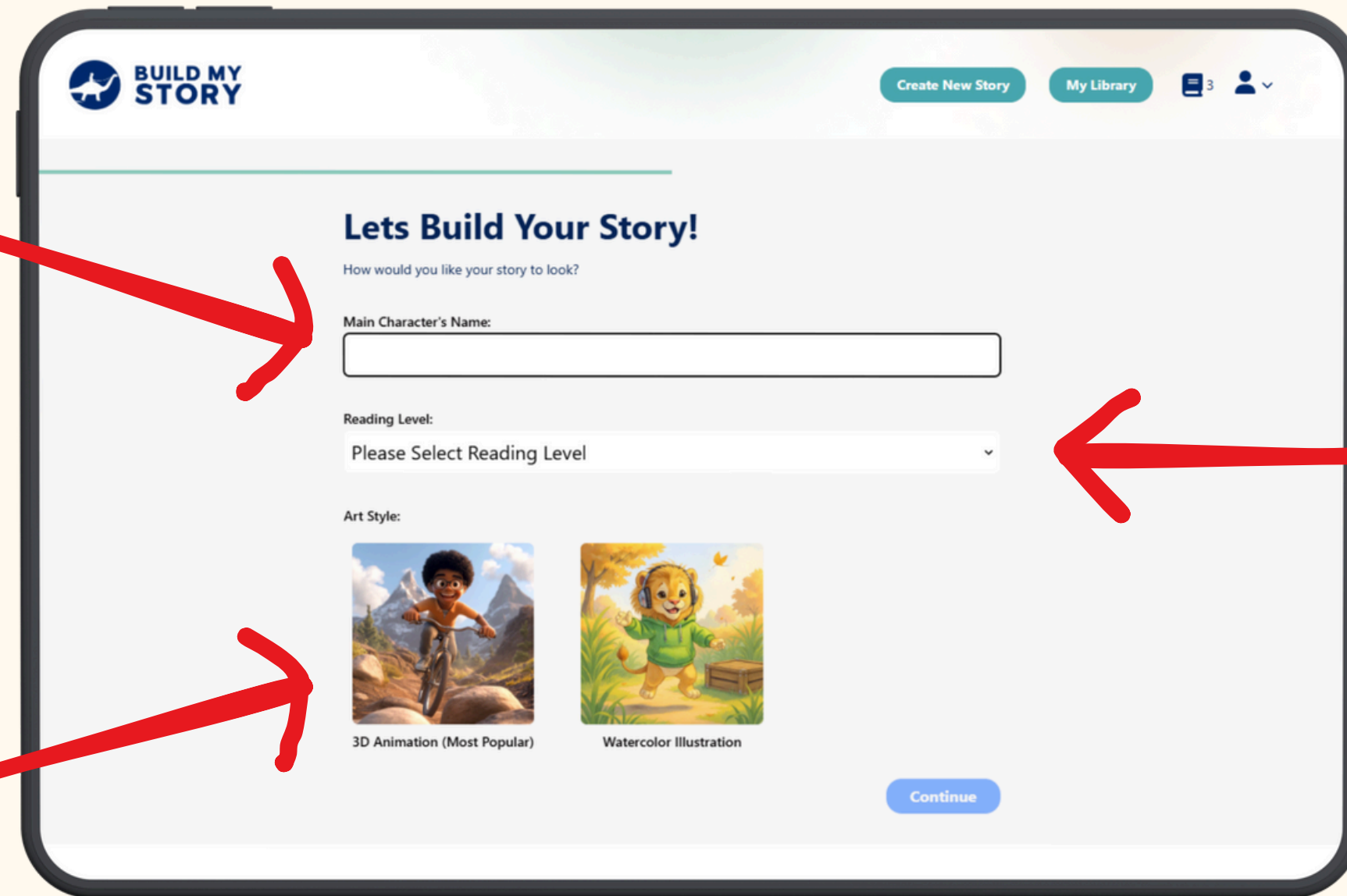
Set up your book

1

Type your main
character's name

3

Pick your picture
style



The screenshot shows the 'BUILD MY STORY' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the logo, 'Create New Story', 'My Library', and a user profile icon. The main heading is 'Lets Build Your Story!'. Below it, a sub-heading asks 'How would you like your story to look?'. There are three main sections: 'Main Character's Name' with a text input field, 'Reading Level' with a dropdown menu showing 'Please Select Reading Level', and 'Art Style' with two image options: '3D Animation (Most Popular)' and 'Watercolor Illustration'. A blue 'Continue' button is at the bottom right. Red arrows point from the instruction boxes to these three sections.

2

Choose your
reading level
(ask if unsure)

4

Click Continue

Choose how to write

Path A

BUILD MY STORY Create New Story My Library 12

Lets Build Your Story!

Tell us a little about your character and what the story's about

Help Me Write My Story
Start with your idea and we'll bring it to life as a real storybook.

I Want to Write It Myself
Already know what happens? Start writing your version.

Story Setting & Goal:
ex: An abandoned research station hidden in the Arctic, where a kid discovers old technology and must uncover what happened to the missing scientists.

Story Type: Please Select Story Type Writing Style: Please Select Writing Style Write Story Inc: English (US)

[Back](#) [Continue](#)

Help me write — paste your summary

Path B

BUILD MY STORY Create New Story My Library 12

Lets Build Your Story!

Tell us a little about your character and what the story's about

Help Me Write My Story
Start with your idea and we'll bring it to life as a real storybook.

I Want to Write It Myself
Already know what happens? Start writing your version.

Page by page story breakdown

Page 1
One sunny morning.... 0/10 Words

Page 2 0/10 Words

Page 3 0/10 Words

Page 4 0/10 Words

Page 5 0/10 Words

Type it myself — type your story

Help me write — paste your summary

1

Paste your 4–6
sentence
summary

2

Choose Story
Type

3

Choose Writing Style

4

Choose
Language

5

Click Continue

The screenshot shows the 'Build My Story' app interface. At the top, there's a header with the logo and navigation links 'Create New Story' and 'My Library'. Below this is a section titled 'Lets Build Your Story!' with a sub-header 'Tell us a little about your character and what the story's about'. There are two main options: 'Help Me Write My Story' (highlighted in yellow) and 'I Want to Write It Myself'. Below these is a 'Story Setting & Goal' section with a text input field containing an example story. At the bottom, there are three dropdown menus: 'Story Type' (with 'Please Select Story Type'), 'Writing Style' (with 'Please Select Writing Style'), and 'Write Story In:' (with 'English (US)'). A 'Continue' button is at the bottom right. Red arrows point from the numbered instructions to specific parts of the interface: arrow 1 points to the 'Help Me Write My Story' button, arrow 2 points to the 'Story Type' dropdown, arrow 3 points to the 'Writing Style' dropdown, arrow 4 points to the 'Write Story In:' dropdown, and arrow 5 points to the 'Continue' button.

Type it myself

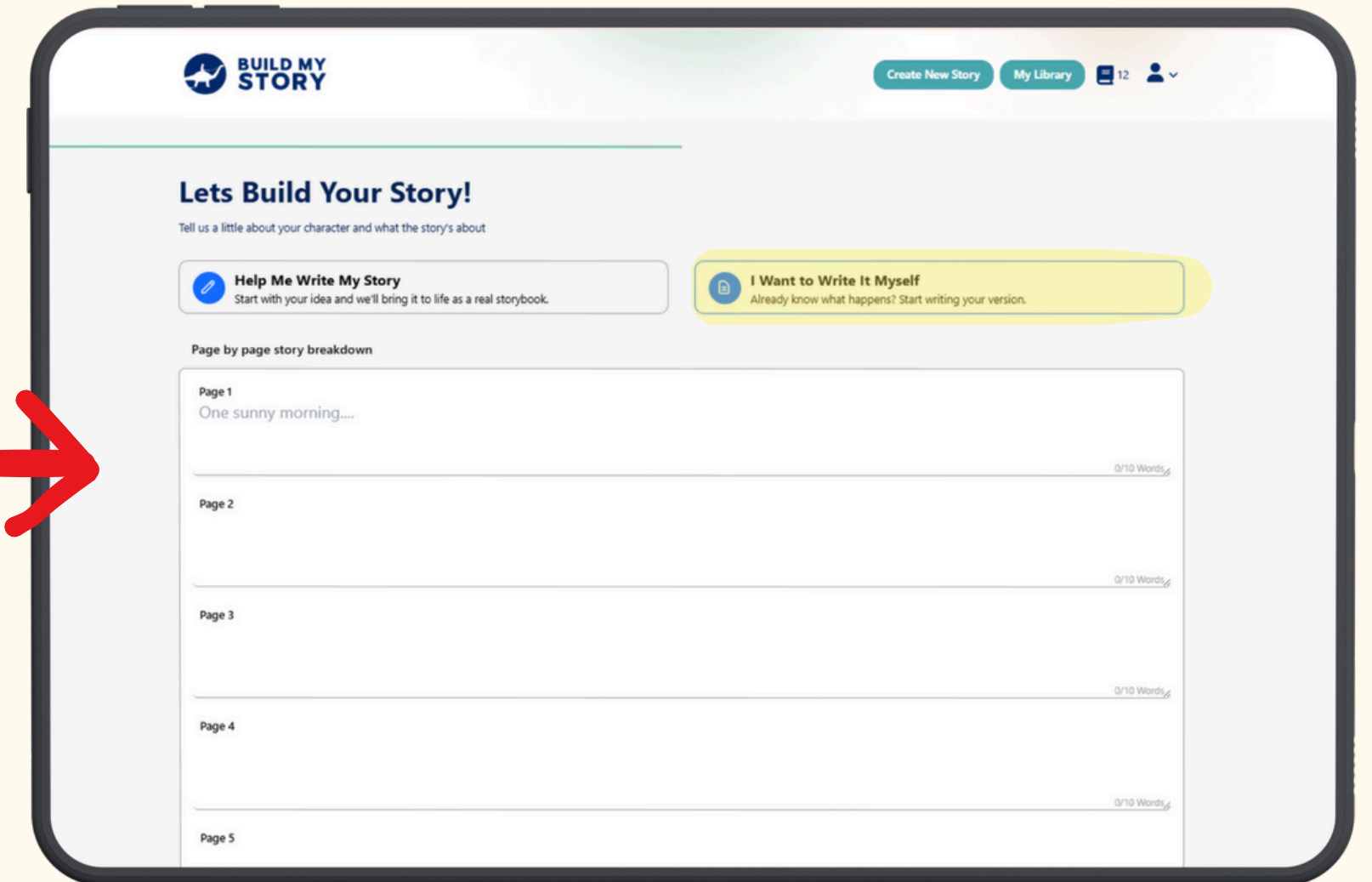
Type into the 11 pages

1

Remember:

Beginning → Build-up → BIG
moment → Fixing it → Ending

Use 2–3 linking words

A screenshot of the 'BUILD MY STORY' app interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the app logo, 'Create New Story', 'My Library', and a user icon. Below this, a heading 'Lets Build Your Story!' is followed by a subtext 'Tell us a little about your character and what the story's about'. Two main options are presented: 'Help Me Write My Story' (with a blue icon) and 'I Want to Write It Myself' (with a yellow icon and highlighted background). Below these, a section titled 'Page by page story breakdown' shows a list of pages. Page 1 is partially filled with the text 'One sunny morning....'. Pages 2 through 5 are empty. Each page entry has a '0/10 Words' indicator on the right.

2

Click Continue

Build your character



Upload a drawing

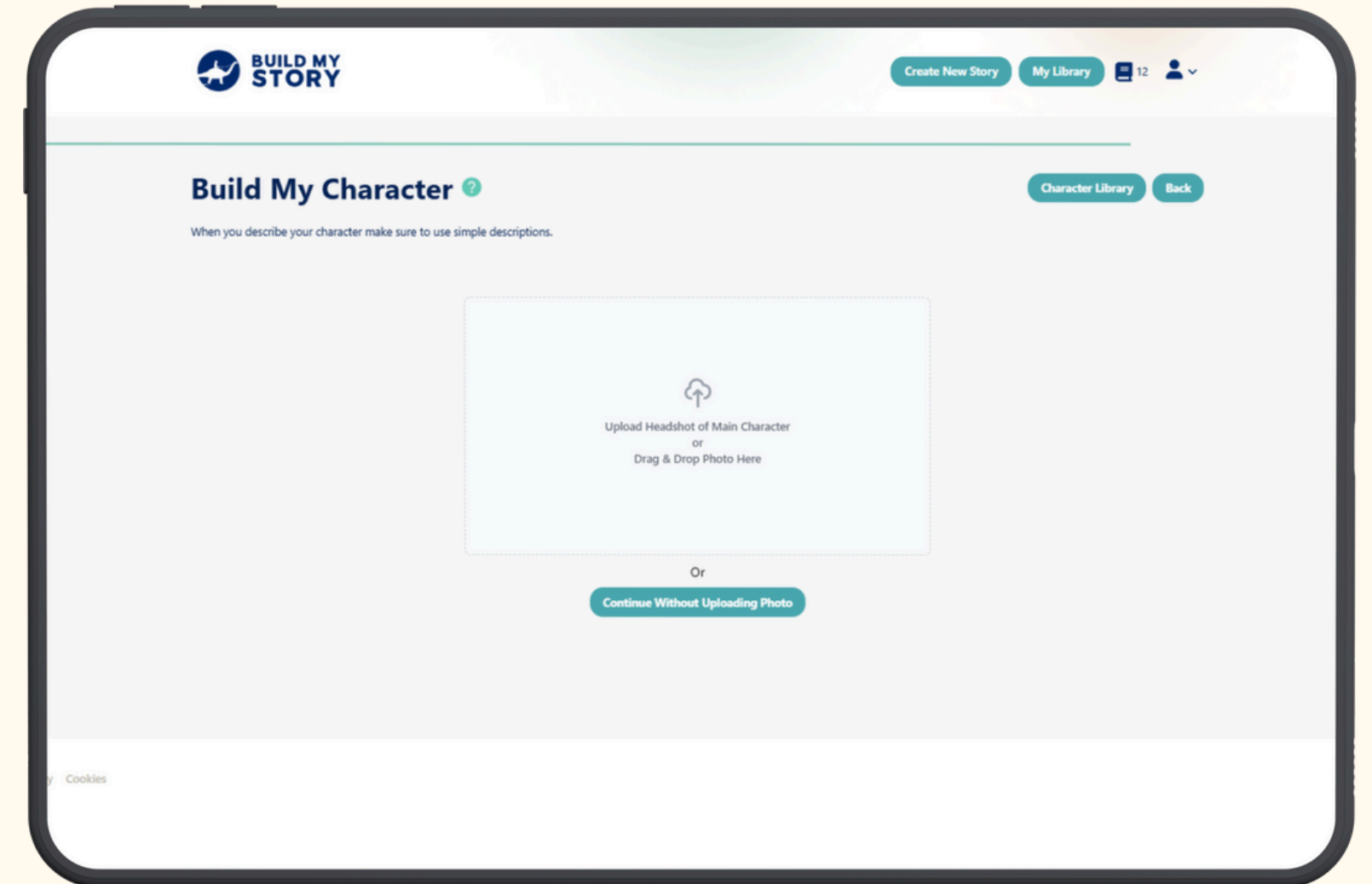
OR



A picture of a character

OR

Click 'Continue without uploading character'



Build your character

1

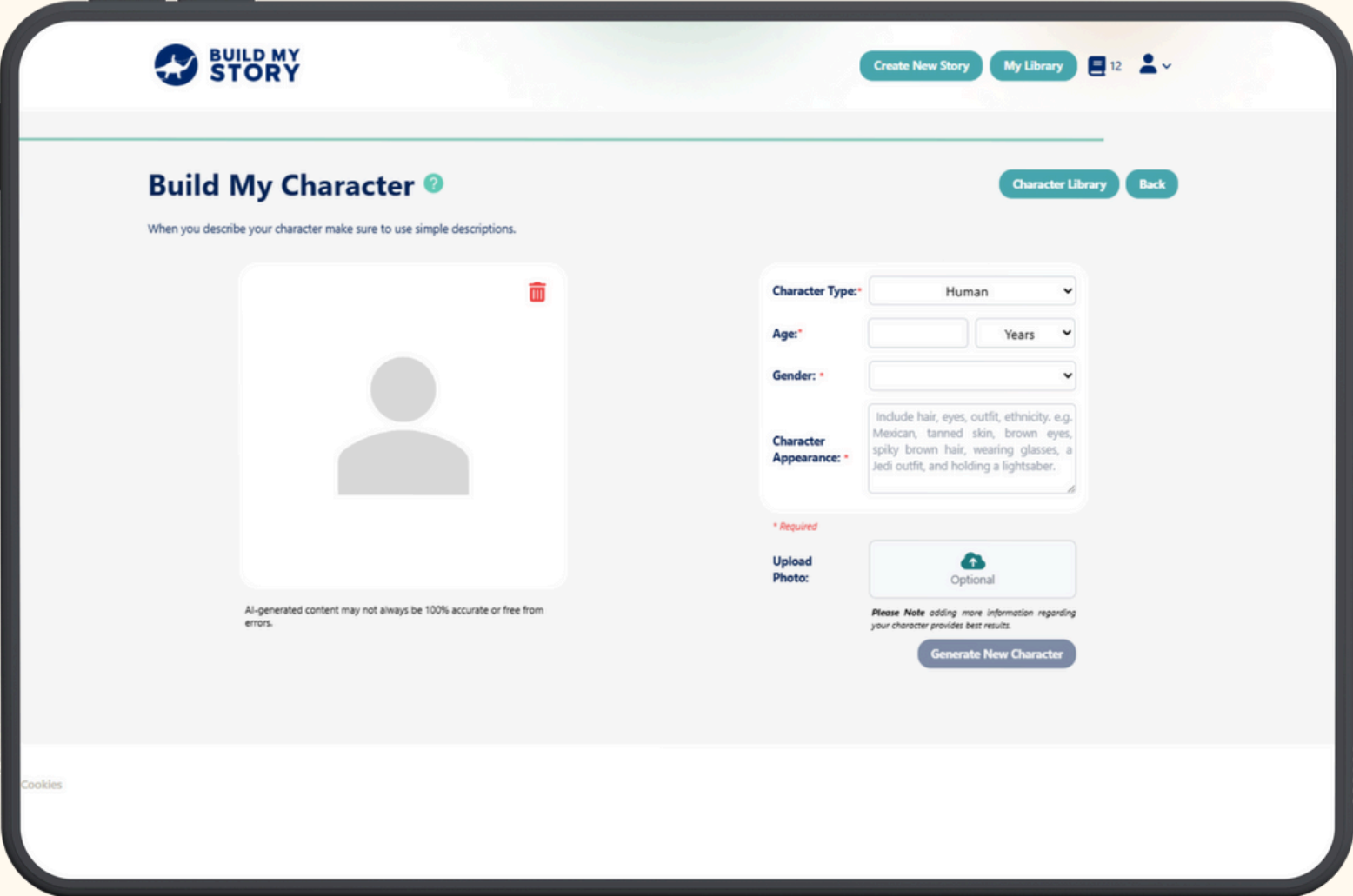
Choose Character Type:
Human, Animal or Fictional

2

Age or character type if
its an animal or fictional

3

Type character appearance.
What does the character look like?

The screenshot shows the 'Build My Character' interface on a mobile device. At the top, there's a header with the 'BUILD MY STORY' logo and navigation links like 'Create New Story', 'My Library', and a user profile icon. The main heading is 'Build My Character' with a help icon. Below it, a note says 'When you describe your character make sure to use simple descriptions.' The interface is divided into two main sections. On the left, there's a large placeholder for a character image with a red trash icon in the top right corner. Below this placeholder, a small disclaimer reads: 'AI-generated content may not always be 100% accurate or free from errors.' On the right, there's a form with several fields: 'Character Type' (a dropdown menu currently set to 'Human'), 'Age' (a text input field followed by a 'Years' dropdown), and 'Gender' (a dropdown menu). Below these is a text area for 'Character Appearance' with a red asterisk indicating it's required. A small example text is provided: 'Include hair, eyes, outfit, ethnicity, e.g. Mexican, tanned skin, brown eyes, spiky brown hair, wearing glasses, a jedi outfit, and holding a lightsaber.' At the bottom of the form, there's an 'Upload Photo' section with a red asterisk and an 'Optional' button. A 'Generate New Character' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

4 Click 'Generate New Character'

Build your character

BUILD MY STORY

Create New Story My Library 2

Build My Character ?

When you describe your character make sure to use simple descriptions.

Character Type: Fictional

Character: Superhero

Description: Superhero

* Required

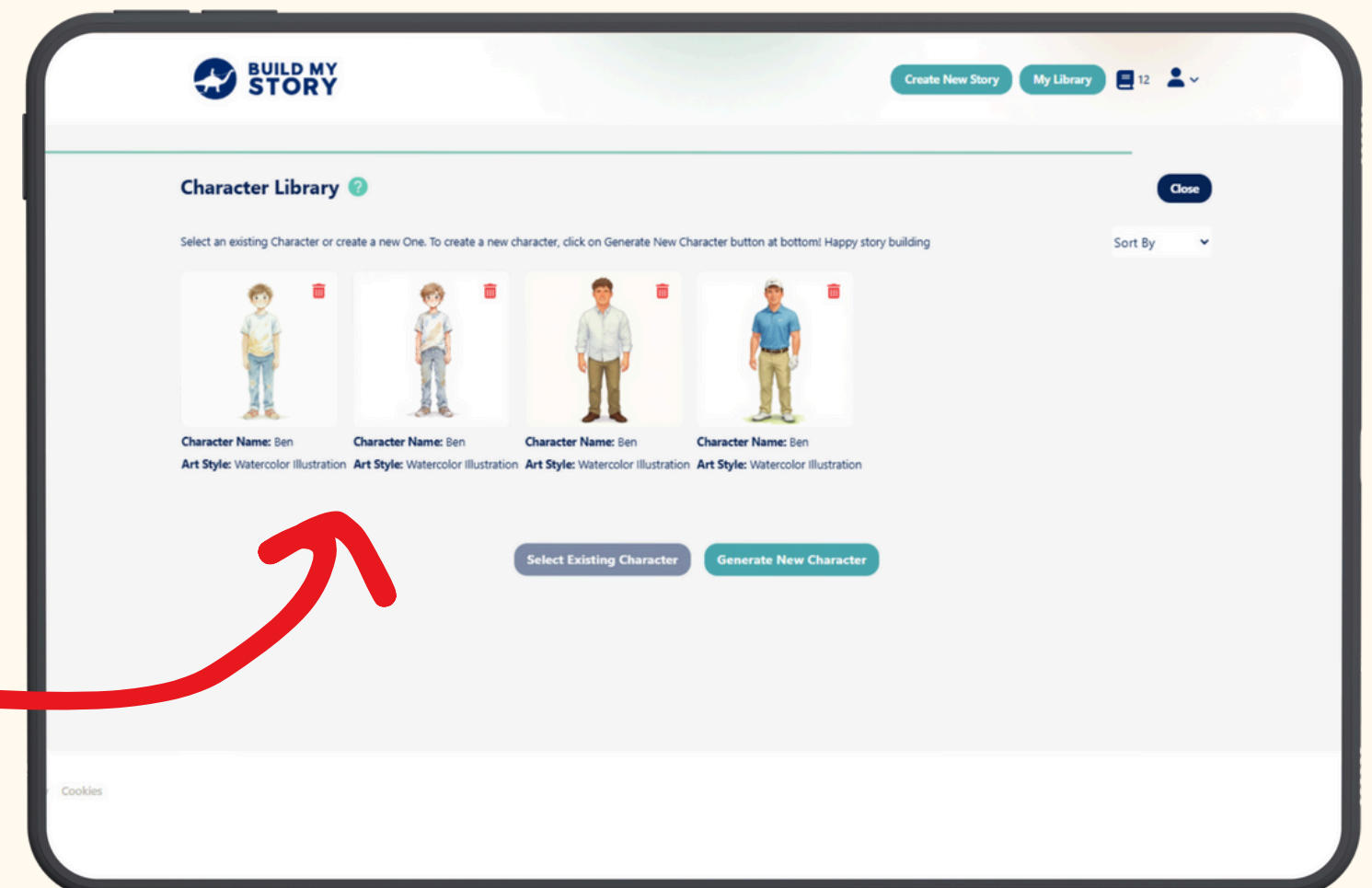
Replace Photo: Optional

Please Note adding more information regarding your character provides best results.

Regenerate Character 6/8 Continue

Character Library Back

Click to view all of the characters you have made

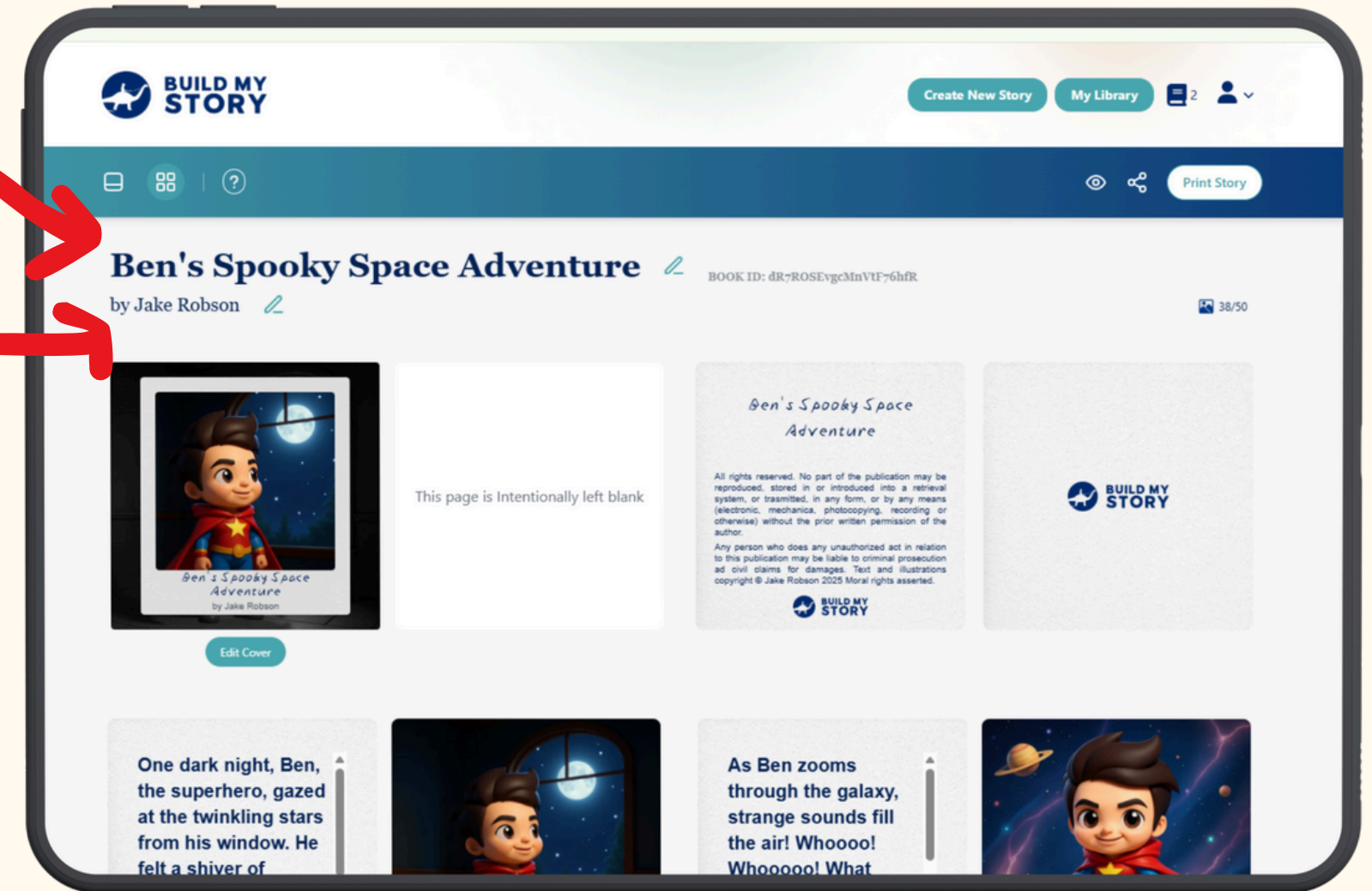


Edit Your Book Until You Are Happy!

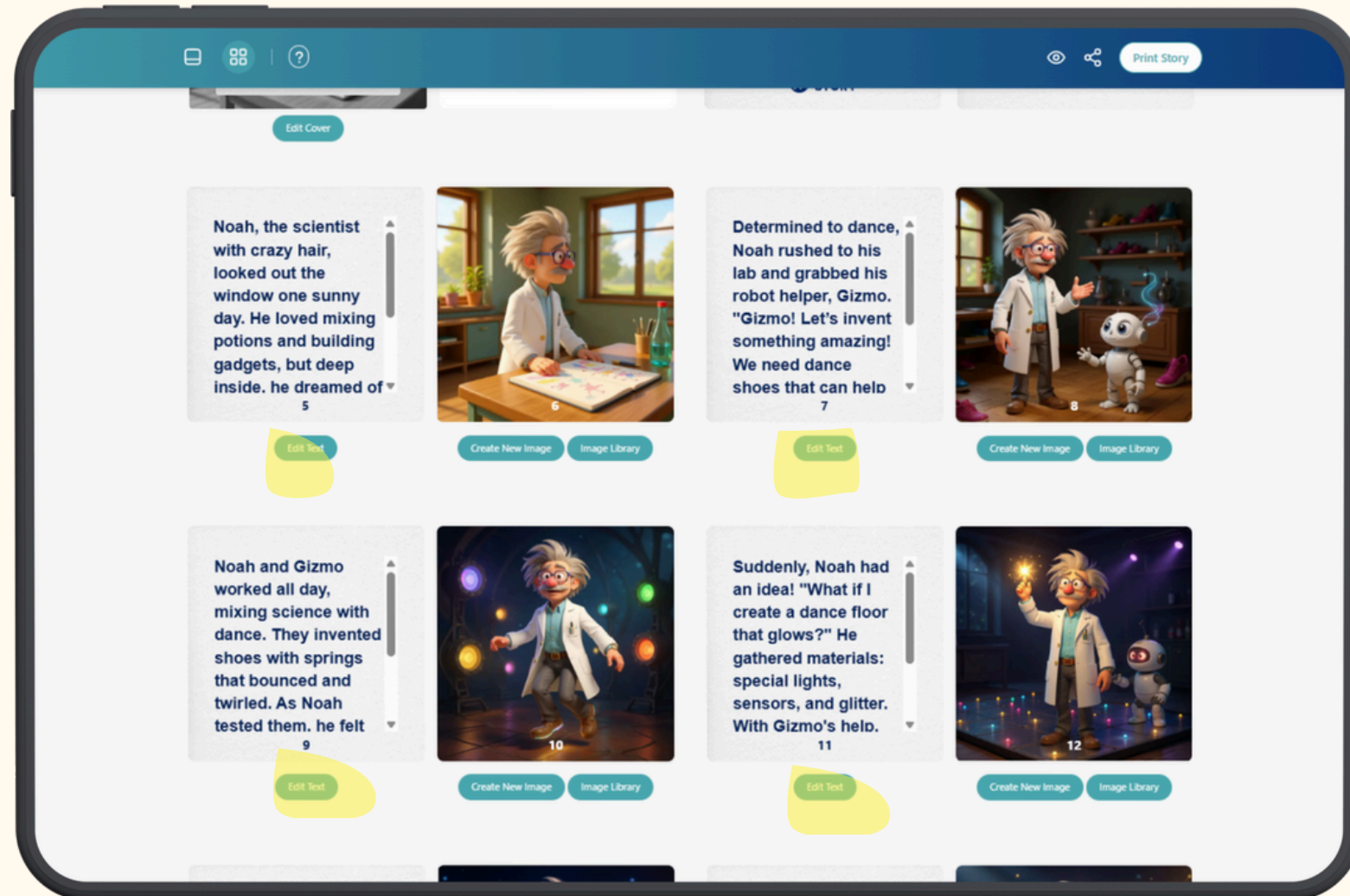
Edit Your Title

Edit Author Name

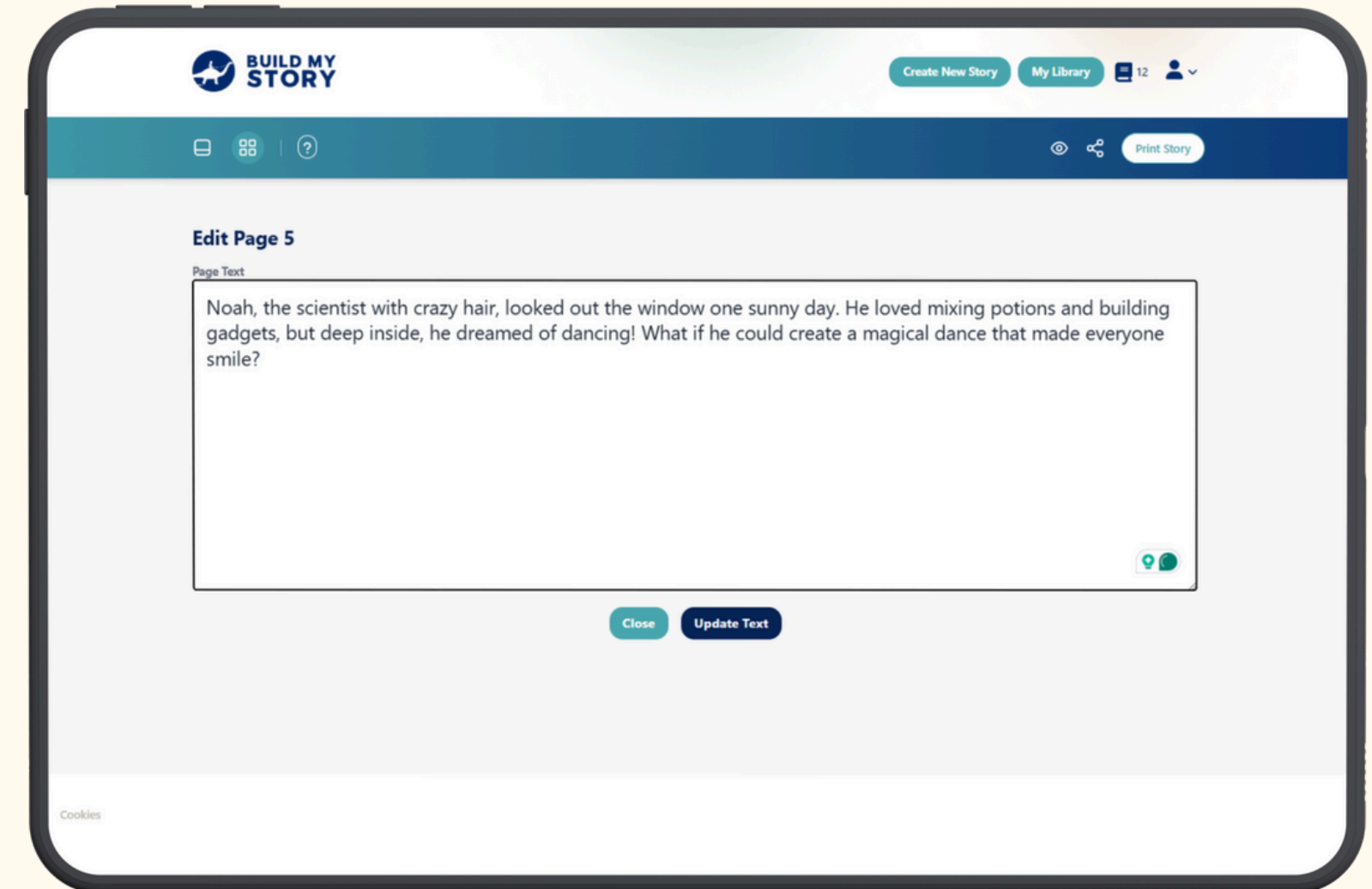
Scroll and Read your
amazing story!



How to edit text

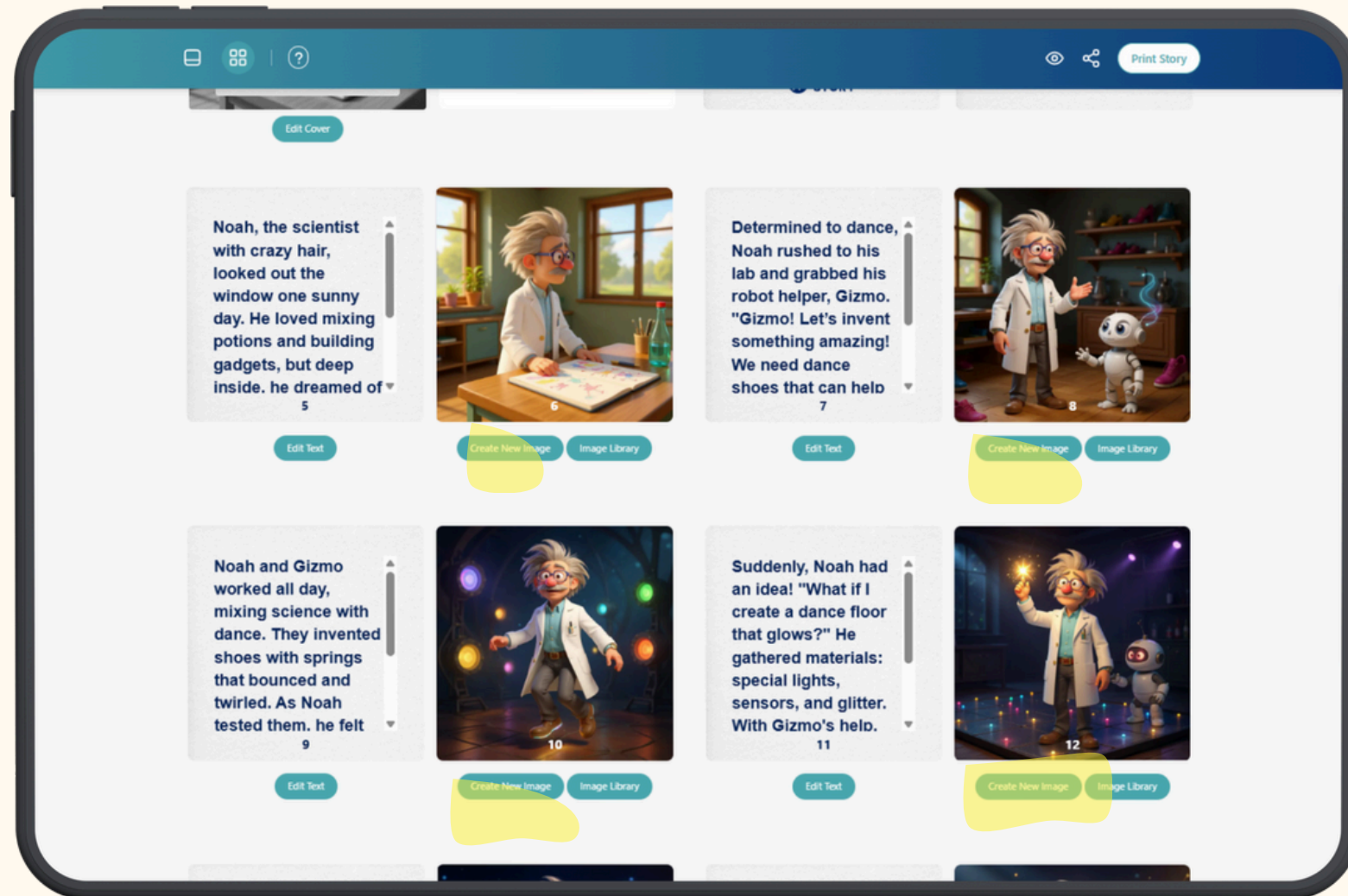


Click 'Edit Text'

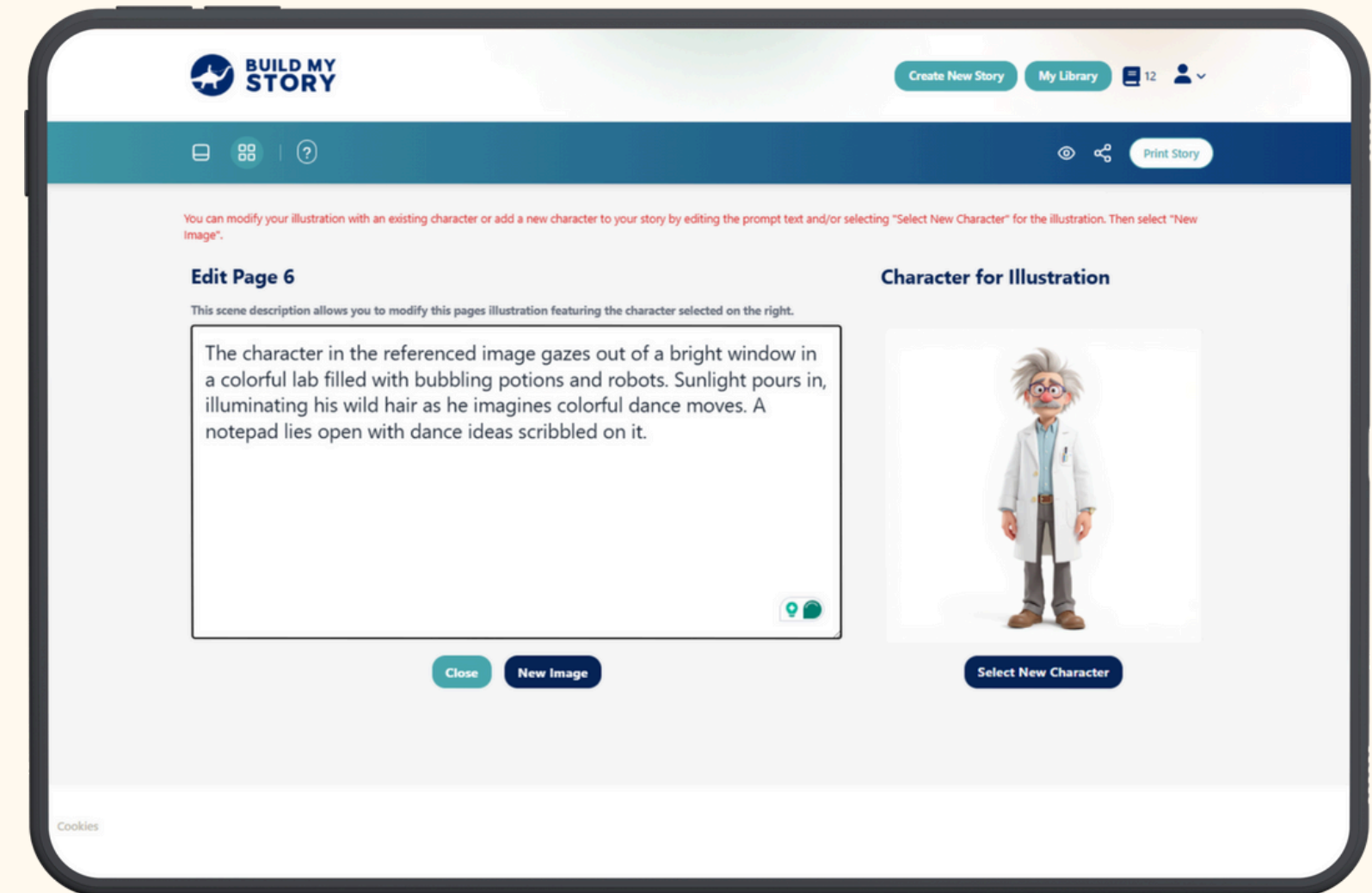


Type, Edit and 'Update Text'

How to edit Images



Click 'Edit Image'



Type in your Image Prompt

What is an image prompt? →

What is a good image prompt?

What's a prompt?

It's the sentence that tells the app what to draw on this page.

Your main character stays the same—you change the **action, place, and details**.

The 4 Magic Parts (A-P-O-M)

- Action – what is the character doing?
- Place – where is it happening?
- Objects – 1–2 things to include (props).
- Mood/Time – how it feels (cozy, windy) or when (evening, rainy).

Quick Example Image Prompts

Good Prompt

“The character stirs a big pot in Grandma’s kitchen at sunset; steam rises and a pumpkin pie cools on the counter.”

Not Good Prompt

“The character in the kitchen.”

Why is this not a good prompt? Put your hand up

Remember The 4 Magic Parts (A-P-O-M)

Action + Place + Objects + Mood/Time

Why is this a bad prompt?

Not Good Prompt

“The character in the kitchen.”



Action – No Action



Place – “The kitchen”



Objects – No Objects



Mood/Time – No Mood/Time

The bad prompt has not passed
the 4 magic parts!



Why is this a good prompt?

Good Prompt

“The character stirs a big pot in Grandma’s kitchen at sunset; steam rises and a pumpkin pie cools on the counter.”



Action – “Stirs a...”



Place – “Grandma’s kitchen”



Objects – “Big Pot”, “Pumpkin Pie”



Mood/Time – “Sunset”

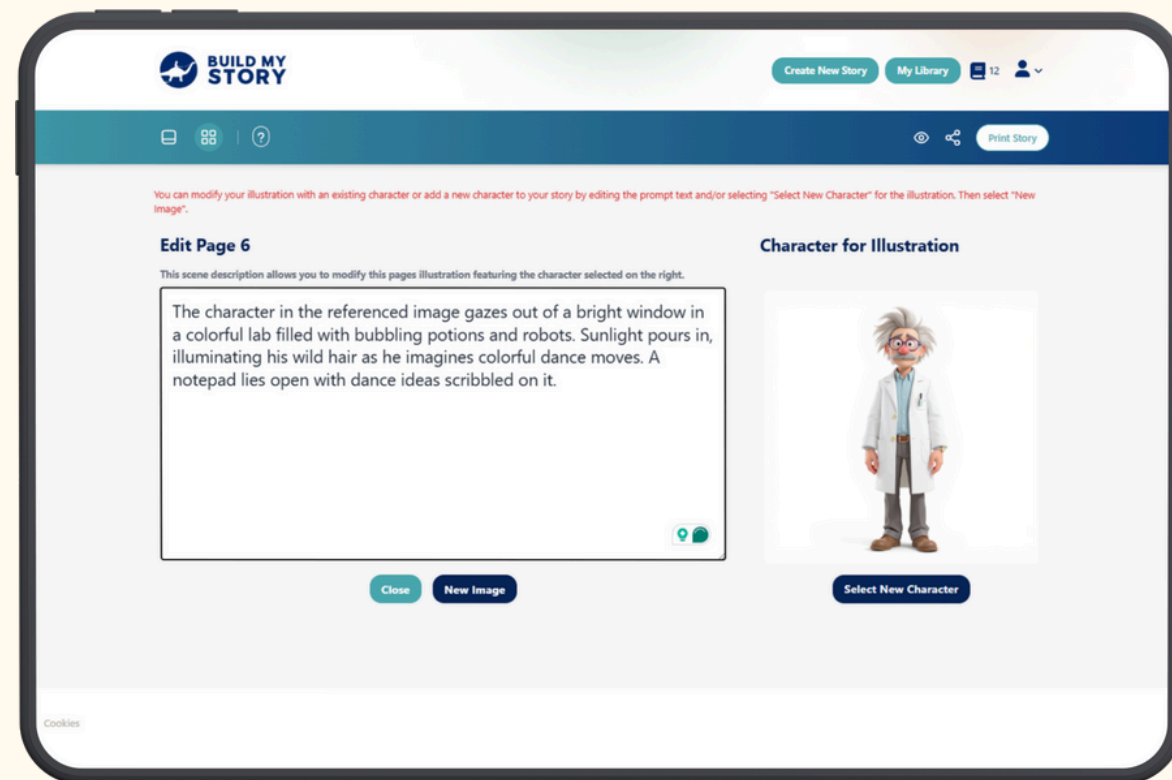
The good prompt has passed
the 4 magic parts!



And that’s how to use AI!

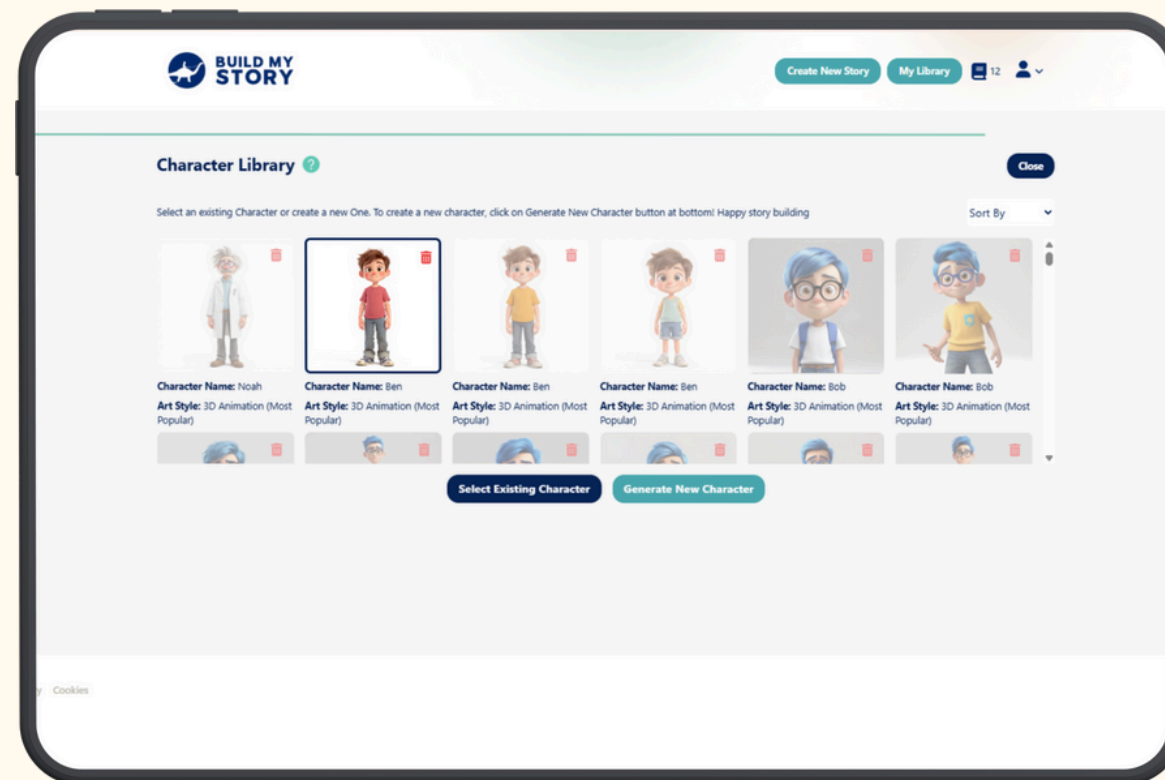
You can even add more characters!

1



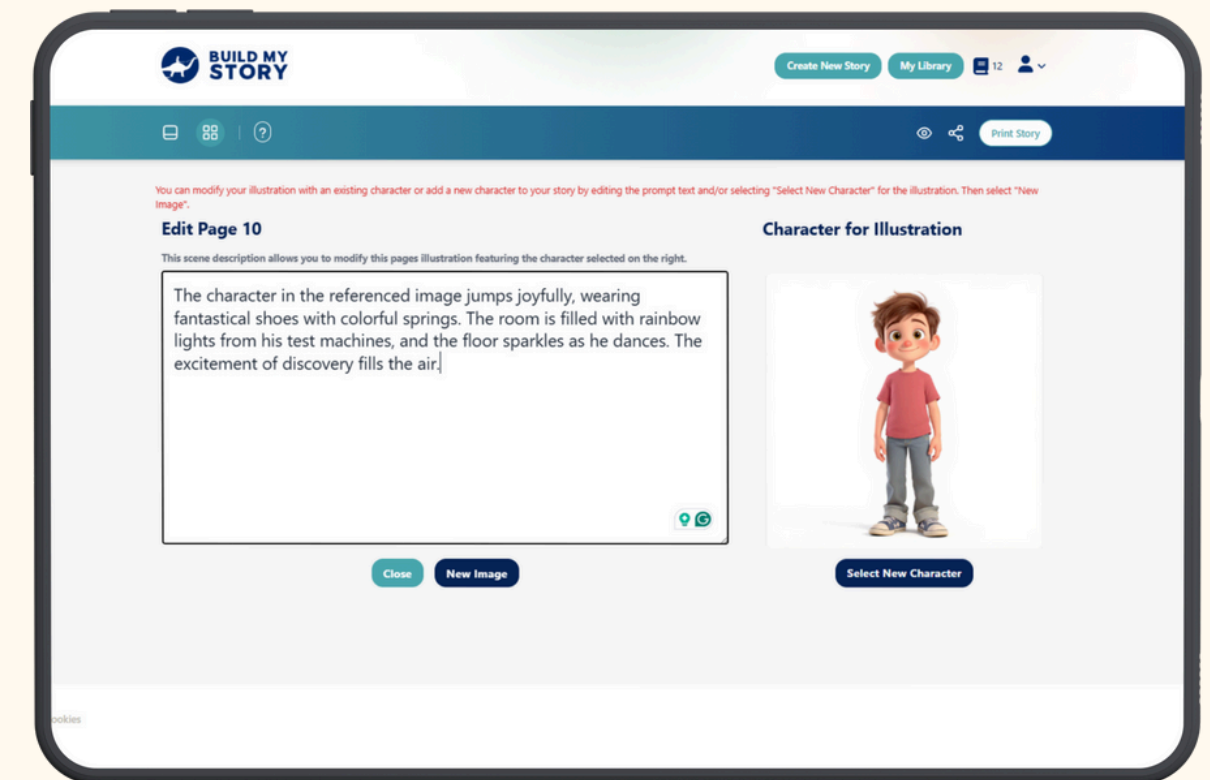
Click 'Select New Character'

2



Create or choose a new character

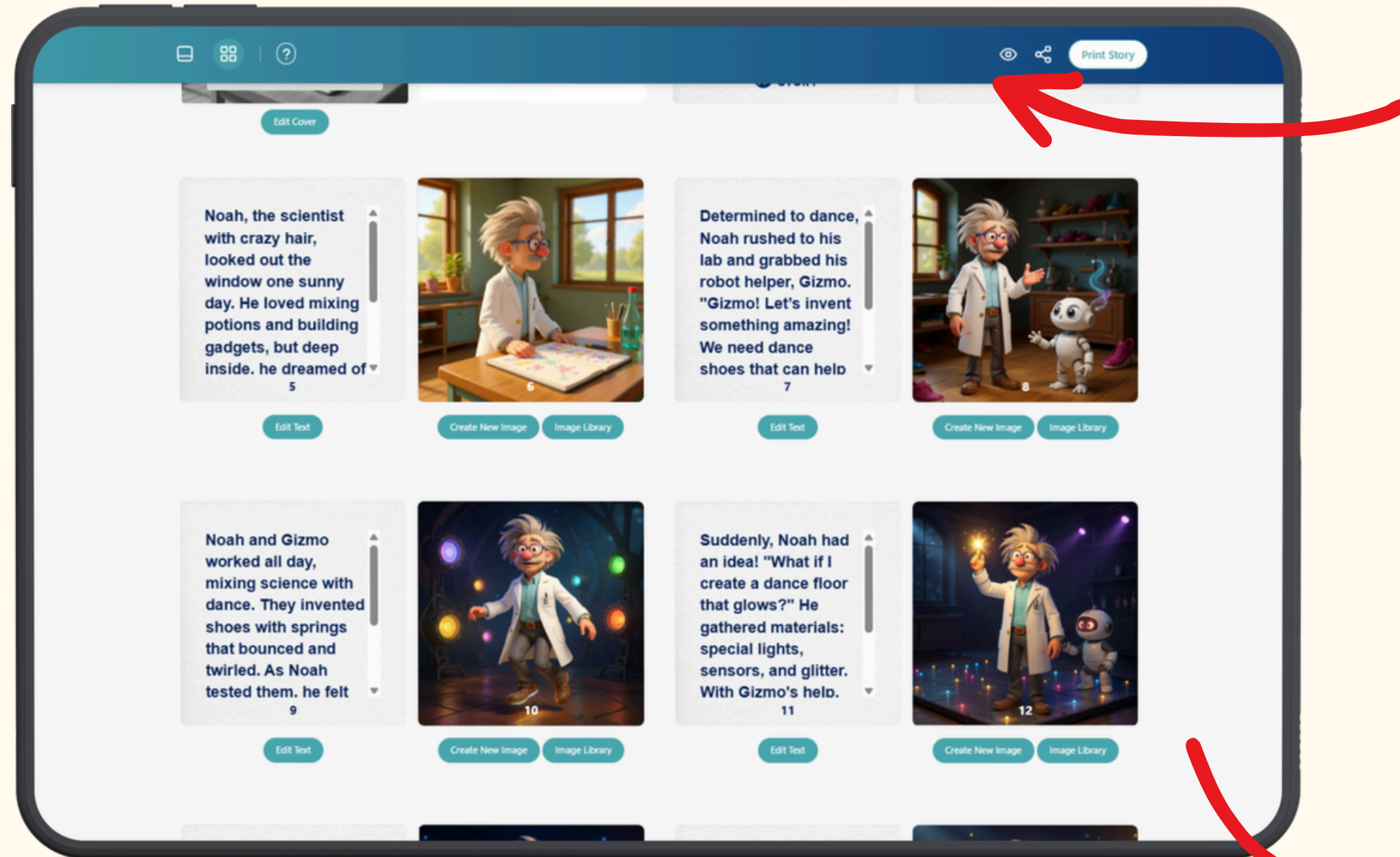
3



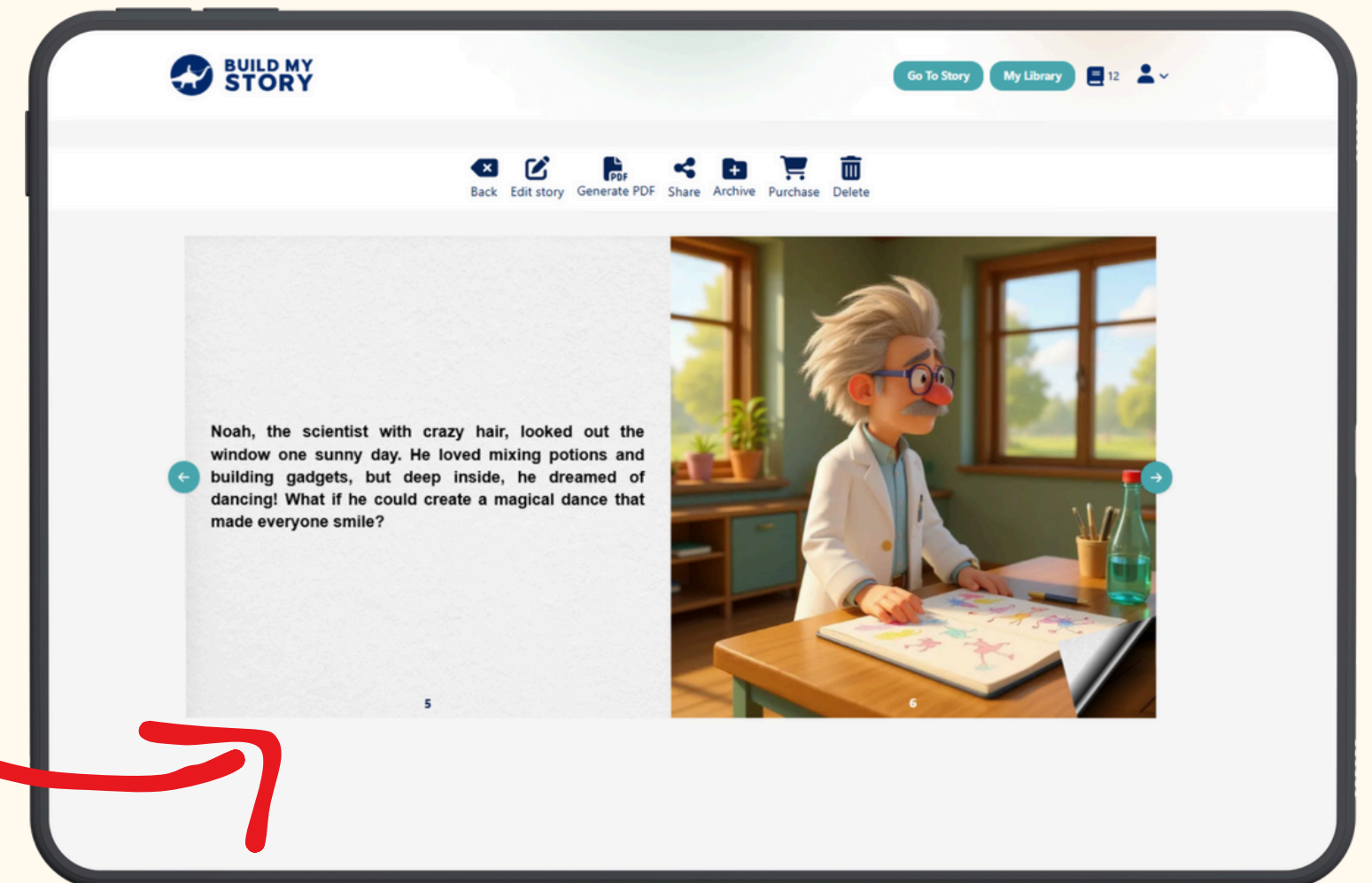
Edit Image Prompt

Remember to change your image prompt with your new character!

Proof Read when you're finished!



Click on the 



Learning Objectives

- ☒ I can revise my draft story to make it clearer
- ☒ I can fix capitals, punctuation, and spelling.
- ☒ I can type my story and give it a great title.
- ☒ I can publish a book!
- ☒ I can make an AI picture

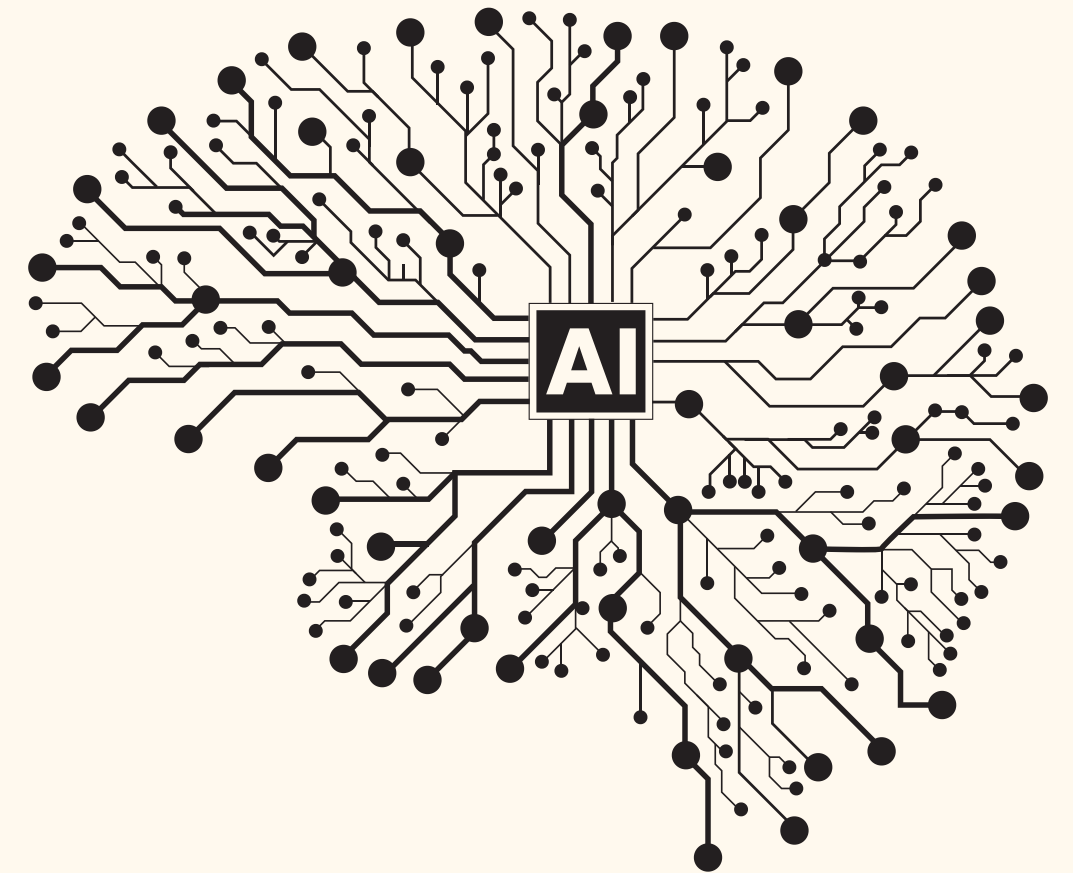
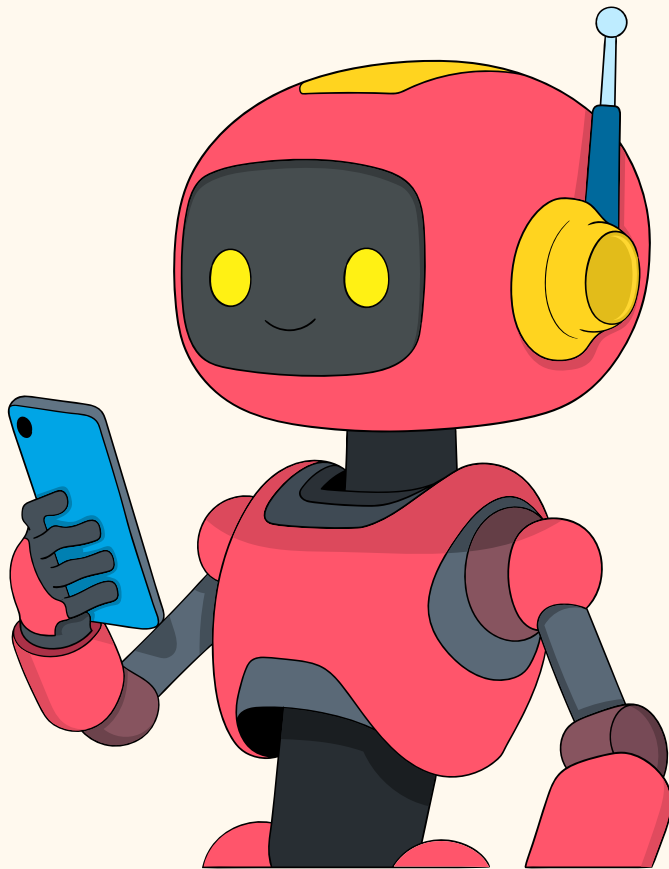
G2-6

What is AI?

Optional Add On

The first question is...

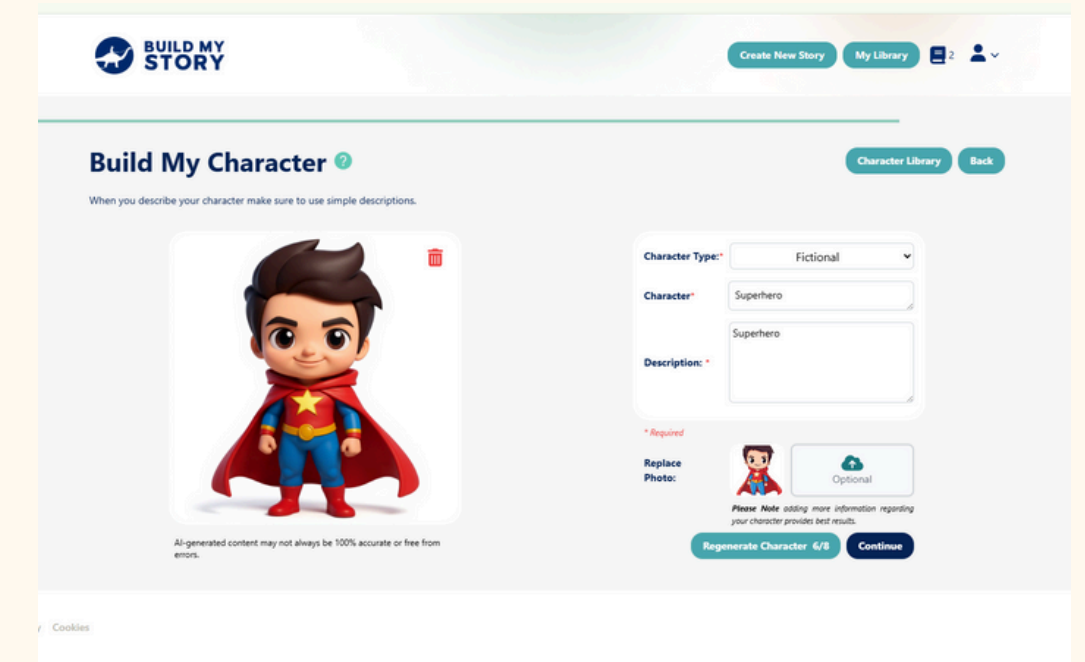
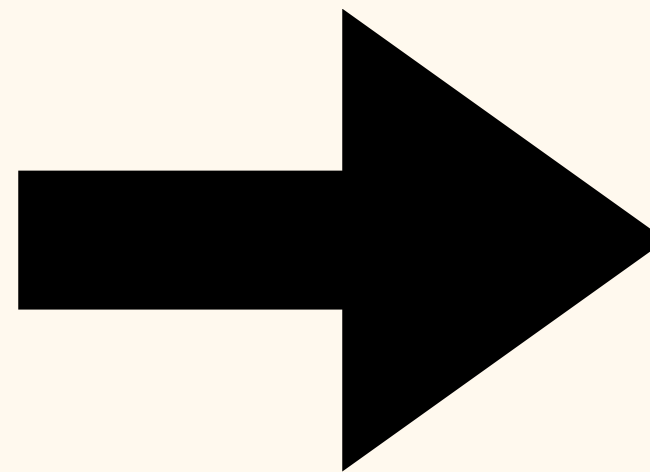
What is A.I?



What is A.I?

AI = Artificial Intelligence.

- It means computers learn patterns from lots of examples.
- Then they use those patterns to help us: recognize voices, suggest words, translate, draw pictures from words, and chat.



That's how your character was made!

In Build My Story, AI can:

- grow your summary into a story (Help me write)
- make pictures from your prompt (Create new image)

Remember!

AI is NOT a person. It has no feelings and can make mistakes.

YOU are the author — check, edit, and choose what to keep.

Story Summary → Big Story

Image Prompt →



Be smart & kind online:

- Don't share private info (full name, address, passwords).
- Ask an adult if something doesn't look right.