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Write under a pen name

Some of the world's most famous authors have used pen names (or *noms-de-plume*). Robert Galbraith, who writes crime novels, is really Joanne Rowling, better known as JK Rowling. Lemony Snicket, who wrote *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, is really called Daniel Handler. And Magnus Flyte, who wrote *City of Magic*, is actually two people – Christina Lynch and Meg Howrey.

Sometimes writing under a different name can make you feel quite different, which in turn will make your writing different. So here's today's challenge:

Make up a pen name that is nothing at all like your real name. It might be a silly name or a magical-sounding name. It might be a very very serious name. Or a foreign name. Or an important name. Or a humble name.

Now, start thinking yourself into the head of that person. Try to find a hat or a jacket or a cloak or something else that they might wear. If you can't find anything, imagine it. Imagine exactly what it looks like. Imagine looking at yourself in the mirror – only you no longer look like *you*. You are now someone else.

What is this new person worried about? What do they love? What's their best memory? What's their worst memory? Where do they go for their holidays? Who's their best friend (if they've got one)? What's a secret they have never told anyone?

Now, sit down in this person's favourite place, and write a story about something that once happened to them.

Good luck!

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