



Story Co-Pilot Night

A guided parent-and-kid storytelling session. AI helps you draft; the kid steers the voice, the details, and the ending.

5–12

20 min

Draft resource

1 Set the runway

Together, choose one tiny setting: a street, a kitchen, a treehouse, a single room. Name the time of day, the season, and one weird detail (a chair on the ceiling, a goat who delivers mail).

2 Cast the characters

Name your main character and one side character. Give each one a want and a worry. The kid picks wants; you pick the worries. Or vice versa.

3 Open with a moment, not a setup

Start the story mid-scene: a sound, a smell, a question. Skip the exposition. The first line should make the kid ask, “Wait, what?”

4 Co-pilot, don’t auto-pilot

You both take turns typing a sentence or two. The rule: never more than three sentences in a row from AI. The kid decides when to overwrite, reroll, or push the story further.

5 Stop at the choice point

When the story hits a decision, stop typing and ask the kid: “What does this character do next, and why?” Their answer is the next line — they wrote it.

6 Revise for voice

Read the whole thing out loud. Mark every line that sounds fake, generic, or adult-written. Rewrite those lines in your own words. This is the lesson: AI drafts; humans pick the voice.

7 Save the receipt

At the end, the kid says: “What did AI help with, and what did I decide?” If they can answer plainly, the practice worked.

“We are co-writing tonight. AI is a co-pilot, not the driver. You decide the character, the voice, and the ending. I am here to help you push past the boring parts.”

The tone

Curious first. Firm second. The goal is proof of understanding, not a confession. Keep the conversation safe enough that your kid tells you the truth next time.

Co-pilot rules for the night

Start with: “It was the kind of [morning/afternoon/evening] where...”

Force the character to make a promise early.

No more than three sentences from AI in a row.

End on a question or a small choice, not a big fight.

Read it out loud before you save it.

Make it yours

Our rule: _____

We will try: _____

Ask a human when: _____

Do tonight: Pick a tiny prompt below. Take turns. Let the kid be the editor.

raisingaikids.org/resources/story-co-pilot-night