



You will write a story of 26-sentences in which each sentence begins with the next letter in the alphabet. You may begin with A and go in order, or begin with Z and go backwards. (*Heck, you can even begin with M and continue to Z, then back around, ending with L. Or even begin with M, go to A, and come back from Z to end with N. You get the picture.*)

Tips:

- This is not just a list of sentences; it's a story. The sentences should link together in a narrative.
- Know what you'd like to happen before you begin.
- Keep the plot diagram in mind. It needs to have a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Once you begin, have a clear sense of pace so that you can build conflict to a climax or turning point and then resolve by the time you get to your 26<sup>th</sup> sentence.
- The story should have more than one paragraph. Tab in for paragraphs; each new line of dialog requires a new paragraph in a conversation.
- Dialog can make using the next letter easier. Consider. See my example.
- X is a really hard letter to use. If you choose, you may use words that begin with EX for X.
- Read the examples to get ideas of how to write this story well. The sentences vary in length. Often, the sentences begin with an introductory word (like "often"), phrase "Walking toward his home, the boy began to feel faint," or clause, "Despite the heat, she chose to go golfing."

Here's my very short example to inspire you:

#### A Teacher's Small Request

Although the story was using invisible ink, it was incredible.  
"Best story ever!" Matt declared emphatically.  
Cordially, Ms. Larson asked if Matt might use visible ink for his A-Z story.  
"Dunno," Matt said, "because if I do, then, well, everyone would see it."  
"Everyone won't see it," Ms. Larson replied. "For sure, it'll just be me."  
"GRRRRREEEAAT!" Matt declared, much like Tony the Tiger, though Ms. Larson was quite sure he was really making fun of her.. "How long does it have to be? I'm ready to start, if only I knew when I'd really be done."  
"Just 26 sentences," Ms. Larson replied.  
"Kan I skip the hard letters?" Matt asked. "Like Q and Z and K?"  
"Matt, you spelled Kan incorrectly; it starts with a C."  
"No way! Oh my! Phow could you tell that I spelled it wrong when I just said it?"  
"Quiet down, now, and write."  
"Really, how could you tell?"  
"Shhhhh...I could also tell that you used a silent P in that previous sentence. That's why they pay me the big bucks, to be able to intuit all of that and more," Ms. Larson said modestly.  
"Unbelievable."  
"Very," she said curtly. "Why don't you get started now?"  
Xactly what I was thinking, Ms. L!"  
Zen-like, Matt continued his story, this time with visible ink.