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THE GUIDE

Writing a short story can be a daunting task for a writer, the subject of the story is the first thing he thinks about. One of the most popular choices by way of theme is science fiction. Now that the writer has thought of the theme he has to think of the subject, what will it be about? It being a sci-fi piece the thought of spaceships immediately enters his mind, could aliens be involved as well as humans? Lets stick to what we know, humans. With all this thought of, the writer begins to type the start...

The year is 3000AD, and in the Plutous nebula a United Kingdom Starblazer100 rattles through the atmosphere of nothingness. A crew of four men is aboard the black, triangle-shaped spacecraft. Captain Kirt – the leader of the crew – dressed in his dark green jumpsuit with his blonde hair shaved into his head, his beady, blue eyes searching the vastness of space for their target, stands on the bridge.

Pausing the writing to think of the rest of the characters, the crew that should accompany Kirt on his adventure, the writer begins to dabble in stereotypes...

The Captain is joined in the light-grey control room by his 24 year-old navigator, Jason Macgregor, a fierce Scotsman with a passion for both the bagpipes, that could be heard droning away, much to the anger of the other crew members, long into the night, breaching the quietness of space, and whiskey. He had a short brown beard that went well with his short, brown hair.

Thinking that stereotypes would not alone suffice for the story the writer adds in a character that epitomises intelligence and stability...

Lieutenant Peter Falklands is the Captain's right-hand man and 2nd in command of the ragged crew. Peter had gone to University, achieving a degree in psychology, before going to space-flight crew where he graduated top of his class. He had been serving as long as Kirt in the space federation now, a total of 9 years, both of them were the same age – 34. Never prone to making a rash decision Peter was usually the savour of the crew in times of crisis. A valuable member of the crew.

The writer being male and a fan of martial arts movies decides to add a character with kung-fu abilities in order to make the story more appealing to himself...

Bruce Lu, born and raised in Japan until he departed at the age of sixteen for Great Britain where he attended Cahill University and graduated with an honours degree in Computing. Bruce Lu was always interested in martial arts and started studying them “addictively” before he ventured to the British Isles. He is the third oldest of the crew, 28 years old, and responsible for computer and machine maintenance.

Now the story must begin, brainstorming a multitude of possible plots and scenarios the storyteller decides on one and off we go...

The Starblazer100 is a small, nippy spacecraft built for exploration purposes. Its features include Smart Computer Human Interface (SCHH) that is able to talk to the users and advise them on course details and mission statements. The ship is equipped with limited weapon systems designed to ward off pirates – twin Vulcan magnet

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