

Many writers keep a notebook ,or file, of ideas for stories.
My Idea File is a three-ring binder. Here are some tips for
WHAT GOES INTO A WRITER'S IDEA FILE:

1. Story, article, or play ideas
2. Names for characters:
 - boy & girl names
 - adult names
 - last names
 - nicknames, silly names
 - dog, cat, or horse names
3. Story titles you'd like to use.
4. Colors -- new ways to say common colors:
 - cherry, lemon, mint, dust, daffodil, ebony, chalk...
5. Strong verbs: make lists of different ways to say:
 - movement = stomped, crept, skipped, zoomed, edged, etc.
 - looked = gazed, stared, studied, glanced, peeked, spied, etc.
6. Descriptions -- How would you describe yourself, your best friend, your house, your school, your pet? How would you show people feeling fear, sadness, happiness, worry, or anger?
Make notes from books of how other authors handled description.
7. Weather – write up a description of:
 - a summer thunderstorm
 - a hot day at the beach
 - a freezing night under the stars
8. Clippings from newspapers, cartoons, magazines
9. Family stories -- holiday traditions, funny adventures, your childhood memories, tales from older relatives, favorite foods and recipes, family sayings, memories of favorite pets. Who are your family heroes?
10. List favorite books and authors and why you liked them.