

(To listen to this file, click on the audio file **Other Places Where Stories Hide.m4a**)

## D. Other Places Where Stories Hide

There are stories all around you, and with your writer's imagination you will soon be able to find them. I'm writing this paragraph at my library in front of a huge window overlooking the street. I see a fellow with long grey hair tied back in a ponytail ride his bike down the sidewalk. He stops and answers his phone, turns the bike around, and hurries back in the direction he came from. What's his story? What was the phone call about? What's he going to find when he gets home?

The person sitting behind me just said, "There was nothing I could do." Now, I don't know if she's talking about a broken laptop, a sick relative, her response to a friend's request for help, a time when she got stuck on a puzzle, or a time when she was so ill that she could barely function. Whatever the reason, I bet there's a story there somewhere.

Writers are observers and eavesdroppers. Really.

Don't forget that other sources like the stories you read and watch on TV and in movies. If you read or watch mysteries, why not write one, or if dystopian fiction or romance are your favourites, write one of those. Fan fiction is very popular, too, especially online on sites for writers, such as [Wattpad](#), so create your own stories with your favourite film, TV, or novel characters.

Here's a quick list of some other places you can find stories:

1. Read the newspaper.
2. Take a few moments at the mall and watch the passers by.
3. Jot down your dreams and see if a story is hiding there.
4. Start a story with a line from your favourite song.
5. Take a word and brainstorm around it until a story appears. You can use the Pick Four Words list to find your random word.
6. Write about something that happened to you when you were little.
7. Go for a walk or a run, or dance around the room. It's amazing how movement can get the creative juices flowing.