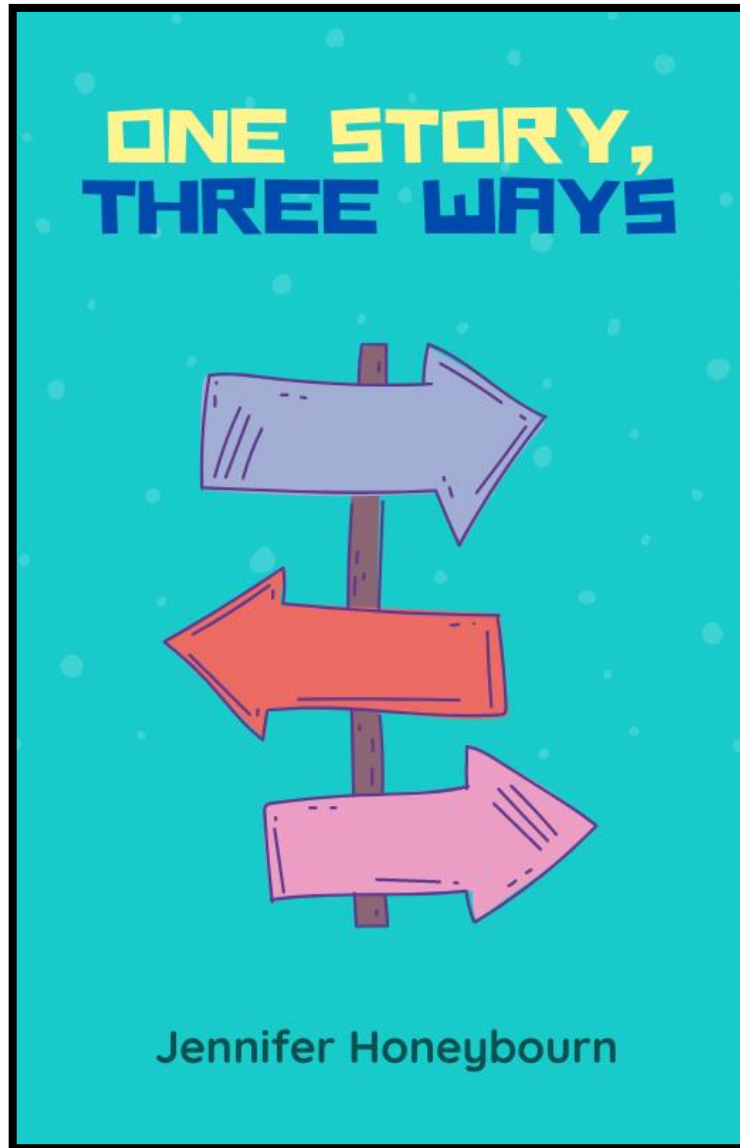


# Teachers Guide



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

*I acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts*

**OVERVIEW** .....3  
**Note to Teachers** .....3  
**Story Summary**.....3  
**About the Author**.....4  
**BEFORE READING** .....5  
**EXPLORING THE STORIES** .....6  
**ACTIVITIES**.....8

## Overview

### Note to Teachers

One Story, Three Ways is a middle grade short story written by middle grade and young adult author Jennifer Honeybourn. The project was funded by [Canada Council for the Arts Digital Originals](#), an initiative to help artists, arts groups, and organizations pivot their work for online sharing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One Story, Three Ways was written for kids in grades 4-6. The story branches into three separate genres (and three separate stories), but features the same main characters. The purpose is to demonstrate and highlight the differences between fantasy, paranormal and science fiction genres. To enhance learning, this guide includes discussion questions and suggested activities. The author has recorded video readings of each story and has posted them on her [website](#) and [YouTube](#) as a teaching resource. Each video is approximately 20 minutes long.

Watch the videos and download the story: [jenniferhoneybourn.com/onestorythreeways](http://jenniferhoneybourn.com/onestorythreeways)

### Story Summary

Twelve-year-old Elliott, his friend, Jayesh, and his younger sister Olivia are on a camping trip. After setting up their tents, they decide to explore the forest. They come across an entrance in a tree that leads to a tunnel, which eventually branches in three different directions. Each direction leads them into a different story.

**Tunnel on the Left:** Elliott takes the lead in this fantasy story. After Elliott chooses the left tunnel, the kids enter the fantastical world of Theynia. Unfortunately, the door they came through disappears and they are trapped in this new world. Fairy magic is required to get them back home but unfortunately, goblins have shackled all of the fairies with iron cuffs, which drains their magic. With the help of their new friend, Elora, the kids travel to King Grugbok's castle to try and convince him to free her so she can open the door.

**Tunnel in the Middle:** Jayesh is the main character in this paranormal story. He selects the middle tunnel and the kids are led through a closet and into the dressing room of a community theatre. They meet Elora, a girl who offers to give them a tour of the theatre. They soon discover the theatre is haunted by a ghost who does his best to scare them. Once they escape, Elora lead them through the creepy cornfield on the way back to the campsite, where it turns out, not everything is as it seems.

**Tunnel on the Right:** Olivia is the star of this science fiction story. She chooses the tunnel on the right, which takes the kids up a glass elevator. The ride through the middle of an office tower and

discover they're in a strange-looking city. Elora, an android, informs them they've time travelled 1,000 years in the future, in a world where humans have gone extinct...and androids are anxious to keep them there so they can study them.

## About the Author



Jennifer Honeybourn is a fan of British accents, Broadway musicals, and epic, happily-ever-after love stories. She is the author of several young adult novels, including *Wesley James Ruined My Life*, *When Life Gives You Demons*, *Just My Luck* and *The Do-Over*. She also writes middle grade books under the pseudonym J.E. Hailstone. Her books have been positively reviewed by *School Library Journal*, *NPR* and *Publishers Weekly*.

You can reach her at: [jhoneybourn@gmail.com](mailto:jhoneybourn@gmail.com) or on her website at [jenniferhoneybourn.com](http://jenniferhoneybourn.com)

## Before Reading

Before watching each video, ask students to predict what each story might be about and what they expect from the story:

1. Based on the title, what do you think this story will be about?
2. Take a look at the illustration on the cover. What do you think it tells us about the story?
3. What, in your opinion, makes a great story? Think about your favourite books/stories — do they have anything in common? If so, what?

Genre:

A [genre](#) is a style or type of music, literature, movies, or other media. Some genres (styles) are used in more than one form of art or communication. For example, the genres fantasy and science fiction are used in literature, movies, and television. (Wikipedia)

1. What are some of the different types of genres used in books?
2. Can you name some of the common characteristics that make up different genres? (for example):

Fantasy:

- Magic and magical creatures
- Castles
- The Harry Potter series
- Can you name any other fantasy books?

Paranormal

- Tend to be scary
- Ghosts, vampires, werewolves
- The Goosebumps series
- Can you name any other paranormal books?

Science Fiction

- Futuristic, involves science and technology
- Time travel, space travel
- A Wrinkle in Time
- Can you name any other science fiction books?

3. What is your favourite genre to read — and why?

## Exploring the Stories

Some questions/short exercises you could do with students after they view each video:

### Intro

5- minute writing exercise

Have you ever been camping? If so, write about your experience. What was your favourite part about camping? Did you sleep in a tent or in a cabin? What kinds of things did you do?

OR

If you haven't been camping, write about what you *imagine* it would be like to go. Where would you sleep (tent or cabin)? What kinds of things would you do?

### The Tunnel on the Left

1. What genre do you think this story is?
2. What are some of the elements of that genre the author has used in this story?
3. Who is the hero of this story? What makes that character the hero?
4. What kind of person do you think Elliott is? What are some of his characteristics?
5. Do you believe in magic? Why or why not?

### The Tunnel in the Middle

1. What genre do you think this story is?
2. What are some of the elements of that genre the author has used in this story?
3. Who is the hero of this story? What makes that character the hero?
4. What kind of person do you think Jayesh is? What are some of his characteristics?
5. Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?

### The Tunnel on the Right

1. What genre do you think this story is?
2. What are some of the elements of that genre the author has used in this story?
3. Who is the hero of this story? What makes that character the hero?
4. What kind of person do you think Olivia is? What are some of her characteristics?
5. What do you think life will look like in 1000 years?

### **General Discussion Questions**

1. Which tunnel would you have picked to go down? (or would you have turned around and gone back to the campsite?)
2. Would you have handled any of these situations any differently than the characters? If so, what would you have done?
3. Which of the three stories did you like the best? Why?

## Activities

### Design a cover

Students could sketch the cover for *One Story, Three Ways* — perhaps focusing on one of the stories and highlighting elements of that genre (fantasy, paranormal or science fiction) in the drawing.

### Draw a character or characters

Students could sketch a character or characters from the story: what do you think Elliott, Jayesh, Olivia and/or Elora looks like? Are there any details in the story that you can use in your drawing?

(The author would certainly love to see cover and character sketches! Please feel free to share at [jhoneybourn@gmail.com](mailto:jhoneybourn@gmail.com) or through Twitter: @Honeybourn)

### Write a story.

What would happen if there was a fourth tunnel? Create your own main character or use one of the characters from *One Story, Three Ways*. Choose a genre to write in: fantasy, paranormal or science fiction. Think about the elements of that particular genre when you're writing your story.

### Read a book.

Read a fantasy, science fiction or paranormal book or graphic novel. Write a report about the genre characteristics found in the novel.