

Short Story Planning

Setting	Protagonist
When (past, present, future)? • Where? Use adjectives to describe the setting. Think of your 5 senses. •	Who? • Name: • Who are they? • What is their goal in the story? • Physical Description: ○ • Personality: ○
Plot	Mood
Type of Conflict: • What is the conflict? • What is the resolution? •	Emotions experienced by the protagonist: • Vivid Verbs: • Adverbs: •

Write a story that has 4 parts to it. The entire story should be between 350 and 800 words. You should include at least 3 lines of dialogue with descriptive dialogue tags.

Tips:

- Search online for images that will help you describe the setting and characters.
- Use a thesaurus to improve your word choice and make your writing more engaging and sophisticated.
- Use both adjectives and adverbs in your story in order to “paint a picture” in the reader’s mind without overdoing it. Worcestershire Sauce is great in soup, but not if there’s too much.
- Include some dialogue, but don’t overdo it - only what is necessary.
- Write the story in the past tense. Don’t change tenses.
- Determine if the story would be more effective if written from the 1st or 3rd person perspective.
- Keep the plot simple. Don’t over-complicate the conflict or provide unnecessary details.

Part 1: Introductory Paragraph - you will introduce the setting and protagonist (with awesome description). There is no action in this paragraph; you are only describing the scene. 4 or 5 sentences - don’t waste your words.

Part 2: Rising Action - this is the second paragraph where the action begins that will set up the main conflict/climax. 4 or 5 sentences - don't waste your words.

Part 3: Conflict/Climax - this is the next few paragraphs where you will create a dramatic conflict full of vivid verbs and adverbs. You are gripping the reader's attention.

Part 4: Resolution - this is where the conflict is resolved. This does not mean it needs to be a happy ending, but something happens as a result of the conflict. NOTE: no endings where the protagonist wakes up and it was just a dream OR there will be no "to be continued..."