

Lesson Name : 35

Lesson Title : Short Story Outline

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

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It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep your outline and notes that you may need to reference later.



In today's lesson, we will begin writing a short story. Short stories have been shared as part of the oral tradition and published in anthologies for centuries. They are very popular with readers because of their length, but challenging for writers because of the limited space with which they can express themselves. In order for you to begin your short story, you must first develop a character. Who will your story be about? What will they look like? What personality traits will they openly exhibit? Which traits will they try to hide? Sometimes authors create characters for their stories based on a real person, changing only a few attributes. Sometimes authors have had a character in their mind since childhood, a superhero or alter-ego that has entertained their imagination for years.

In a new window, view a template to [create your character](#).

The next items to consider when creating a short story are the setting and plot. The setting should describe in detail where and when the story takes place. Authors often use the setting to establish or enhance the tone and mood of a text. A dark, rainy setting projects a different tone and mood than a warm, sunny beach. Where will your story take place, a small town, a bustling city, or an imaginary fictional world of your own creation? Another part of the setting is the when the story takes place. Will your story take place in present time, during medieval times, or in the distant future?

Listed below are some examples of settings in short stories:



The sun reflected like jewels on the playful ocean waves.



The animals grazed lazily in the verdant green fields of the farmhouse.



It was another hectic morning as I rushed through the crowds to work.

The plot in a short story is how the story unfolds to the reader's eyes.

What is the attention grabbing statement that draws the reader into the story? What is the main conflict in the story? How does the conflict unfold? How does the conflict get resolved? These are the items you will need to consider when planning your short story. Who is telling the story? What point of view is the narrator using?

Now that you understand character, plot, and setting it is time to begin planning to write your short story. We first want to follow the six steps to planning your short story. When you get to step six, feel free to use the outline template to organize your story.

To help organize your story, view the [outline template](#) in a new window.

The planning steps to developing your short story are as follows:

- Use the outline template graphic organizer to create your characters. Limit the number of characters to a few so you can focus on their development.
- Identify the setting of the short story. Where and when will the story take place?
- Identify the conflict that the story will have. How does the conflict begin, how does the conflict unfold, and how does the conflict get resolved.
- What is the narration point of view? (First-person, second-person, third-person omniscient, third-person limited, etc.)
- Write a powerful opening sentence that will grab the reader's attention.
- Develop an outline for the short story that lays out the plot and characters' relationships to one another.