

SHORT STORIES...

Short stories artistically present characters in a struggle (**conflict**) which has a definite outcome. Authors of short stories try to fit the maximum effects with the minimum of material.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SHORT STORIES...

- **Brevity** – They are short. Less than 20,000 words and can (usually) be read in one sitting
- **Few Characters** – Only those characters which play a necessary role in the story are included and this is usually limited to a low number
- **Plot** – Simple plot but creates a mood and still includes a beginning, middle and end. It is driven by a conflict
- **Theme** – The meaning or message that a story might be telling “between the lines”
- **Brief Time Line** – Story begins and ends within a short period of time

ELEMENTS OF A NARRATIVE

Two essential ingredients form a short story: **CONFLICT** and **PLOT**. The conflict is the central problem or crisis in the story. It is developed and driven by the plot, which are the events that occur in the beginning, middle and end of the story. Other **literary elements** within a short story include:

- **Character(s)** – Those to whom the events happen are divided into different types
- **Setting** – Where and when story occurs; helps develop story
- **Point-of-View** – Method in which the story is told
- **Theme** – The central idea within the piece of writing; a comment on life

The difference between novels and short stories is that these elements are developed differently due to a shorter amount of space. **Developmental Devices** are often used to help make the story interesting, too. (Things like **flashback**, **sarcasm**, **suspense**, etc.)

When referencing the title of a short story, the title appears in quotation marks.
Example: “Hansel and Gretel”, by the Brothers Grimm.