

What is a short story?

Short stories are simple forms of **fictional narratives**, (made-up stories). They are different from other types of narratives because of the following:

- Brevity (Shortness) - They are less than 20,000 words (80 pages)
- Uncomplicated plot - Very straightforward beginning, middle, end
- Few Characters - Only necessary characters in story.
- Conflict Solved - Story aims to come to simple conflict resolution
- Focus on **Plot** and **Conflict** - Main problem drives the story

SETTING:

→ Setting includes **where** and **when** the story occurs. This may be specific information or there may be clues, (i.e. how characters act, what they wear, the season, etc.)

CHARACTERS:

→ Anyone directly involved in the story. They are divided into the following types:

MAIN CHARACTER(S)	SUPPORTING CHARACTER(S)	MINOR CHARACTER(S)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Story focuses on their actions → Present through beginning, middle and end → Directly involved in central conflict of story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Assist main character in an important way → In most of the story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → In story to provide realism to setting → Not necessarily important to the plot or conflict of the story