

THE SHORT GUIDE TO SHORT STORY WRITING

Short stories are little windows into different worlds. While there are no rules when it comes to writing, many of the best short stories follow the six steps below.

1. **Character:** Whose story are you writing? Think about your main character, what they do and what they're like as a person (e.g., are they shy or courageous?). This will help you create an engaging character and storyline.
2. **Perspective:** Who's telling the story? Is there a narrator telling it third-person ('she', 'he', 'they') or is the main character telling the story in first-person ('I', 'me', 'we').
3. **Plot and Setting:** What exciting or interesting things happen in your story? Think about what's going to happen in the story and where it will take place – is it in the real world, a fictional Earth or in a fantasy land?
4. **Structure:** Most short stories can be broken down into three parts. Before starting your story, see if you can break it up into the simple structure on the right.
5. **Write!** Start writing your story. This includes describing what things, people and places look like. It also involves writing action and dialogue between characters.
6. **Edit.** Read what you wrote to fix up any spelling or grammar mistakes. Also go back and decide if you want to make any changes to the story.

Three parts to a short story:

Part 1: The Goal

What does your character want? At the beginning of your story, make it clear what the main character desires. Maybe they're a student who stumbles across an old map to lost pirate treasure and they want to find it.

Part 2: The Obstacle

What gets in the characters way? In the middle of your story, the main character should face an obstacle they need to overcome. This is what pulls readers in and makes the story super exciting.

Maybe the lost treasure is being hunted by the descendants of the old pirates, and the student needs to outsmart them. How your main character overcomes the obstacle will show the reader more about who they are. And if the obstacle is big, give them help from another character, like a ship captain.

Part 3: The Resolution

Give the story a clear ending. Maybe the resolution for your story is that the student outsmarts the pirates and gets the treasure, or maybe they lose and the treasure is lost, but they become best

