

SHORT STORY: THE BASIC PARTS

Grade 12 • Creative Industries – Literary Arts

A short story is a brief fictional narrative. It focuses on a main character, a problem, and the events that follow.

CHARACTER



Who is in the story?

Example: Mia, a student who enjoys drawing.

SETTING



Where and when does it happen?

Example: In a classroom on Monday morning.

CONFLICT



What problem does the character face?

Example: Mia cannot find her drawing.

PLOT



What happens in the story?

The character faces a problem, takes action, and reaches an ending.

THEME



What message does the story suggest?

Example: Working together can help solve problems.

QUICK STORY PLAN

- 1 My character is _____.
- 2 The story happens in _____.
- 3 The main problem is _____.
- 4 The character tries to _____.
- 5 In the end, _____.



BUILD YOUR SHORT STORY

Sentence frames • Beginning and middle

Copy the frames. Fill in the blanks with your own ideas.

1. INTRODUCE THE CHARACTER AND SETTING

- One _____, a student named _____ was at _____.
- _____ enjoyed _____ and hoped to _____.

2. INTRODUCE THE PROBLEM

- But one day, _____.
- This was a problem because _____.
- _____ felt _____.

3. SHOW THE FIRST ATTEMPT

- First, _____ tried to _____.
- However, _____.
- Then, _____ decided to _____.

4. WRITE THE TURNING POINT

- At the most important moment, _____.
- _____ had to choose between _____ and _____.
- Finally, _____ chose to _____.

Helpful word bank:

- Time:** morning • afternoon • after class
- Feelings:** worried • curious • hopeful • proud
- Actions:** ask • search • share • practice • help



Replace every blank with a word or phrase. You may change the frames to fit your story.

FINISH AND POLISH YOUR STORY

Sentence frames • Ending and revision

5. SHOW THE RESULT

- Because of this choice, ____.
- The problem was solved when ____.

6. END THE STORY

- In the end, ____.
- After that day, ____ learned that ____.

You may show the lesson through the character's actions instead of stating it.

CONNECT YOUR IDEAS

Beginning: One day • At first

Next events: Then • After that • Meanwhile

Problem or change: But • However • Suddenly

Result or ending: Because of this • Finally • In the end



YOUR WRITING TASK

Write a short story of 3 paragraphs.

- **Paragraph 1:** Introduce the character, setting, and problem.
- **Paragraph 2:** Show the attempts and the turning point.
- **Paragraph 3:** Show the result and the ending.

Aim for 9–12 sentences. Give your story a title.

CHECK BEFORE YOU SHARE

- ☐ My story has a clear problem and ending.
- ☐ My events follow a clear order.
- ☐ I used past tense consistently.
- ☐ I checked capitals, spelling, and punctuation.
- ☐ I used my own words and ideas.



Build your own short story

Grade 12 | Creative writing | 45-minute practice

Write a short story in three paragraphs, aiming for 9-12 sentences.

Read and notice

- A character is a person, animal or other being in a story. The setting is where and when it happens.
- A plot is the connected sequence of events. Give your character a problem to respond to.
- An attempt can fail or lead to a new choice. A turning point changes what happens next.
- The ending shows what changes or how the problem is resolved.
- A theme is an idea or message developed through the story. Show it through the character's actions and experience.
- Use the first two frames for your beginning, the next two for your middle, and the last frame for your ending.

A model to learn from

One afternoon, a student named Lian was at the school garden. Lian hoped to grow a healthy plant, but the soil in one pot was too dry. First, Lian guessed what to do. Then, Lian decided to ask for advice. At the most important moment, Lian chose to listen and check the plant's needs. After several days of careful work, new leaves appeared. Lian learned that asking for help can be part of learning.

A little check-in

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose one answer for each question. The answer key is at the end of this pack.

1. Which item is part of a story's setting?

- A. The writer's preferred font
- B. The school garden on a sunny afternoon
- C. The number of pages in the book

2. What makes a useful turning point?

- A. A new title with no change in events
- B. A repeated sentence that adds nothing
- C. An important choice that changes what happens next

3. Which statement describes a theme?

- A. Asking for help can support learning.
- B. The character is named Lian.
- C. The story has eight sentences.

Review your writing

- ☐ I introduced a character and a setting.
- ☐ My events connect to a clear problem.
- ☐ My character makes an important choice.
- ☐ My ending shows what changed.
- ☐ I checked sentence order, capitals and punctuation.

Make it your own

Write a short story in three paragraphs, aiming for 9-12 sentences.

Complete the sentence frames with your own ideas. Use another sheet if needed.

01. Introduce a character and setting

One _____, a student named _____ was at _____. _____ hoped to _____.

02. Introduce a problem

But one day, _____. This was a problem because _____.

03. Show the first attempt

First, _____ tried to _____. However, _____.

04. Write a turning point

Then, _____ decided to _____. At the most important moment, _____.

05. Show a change and an ending

Finally, _____. In the end, _____.

Teacher notes & answer key

Build your own short story

Keep these pages separate from the learner's blank worksheet. Open-ended writing has many possible correct answers.

1. The school garden on a sunny afternoon

The setting tells where and when the events take place.

2. An important choice that changes what happens next

A turning point moves the story in a new direction.

3. Asking for help can support learning.

A theme is an idea developed through the story's events, rather than a name or a count.

Model responses for the sentence frames

These examples offer support. Learners can change the wording and choose their own ideas.

Introduce a character and setting: One afternoon, a student named Lian was at the school garden. Lian hoped to grow a healthy plant.

Introduce a problem: But one day, the plant began to wilt. This was a problem because Lian did not know what it needed.

Show the first attempt: First, Lian tried to guess what was wrong. However, the plant did not improve.

Write a turning point: Then, Lian decided to ask for advice. At the most important moment, Lian listened and checked the plant's needs.

Show a change and an ending: Finally, new leaves appeared. In the end, Lian felt more confident about caring for the plant.