

Step 1: Planning/Brainstorming
Packet for
Short Story.

THE "WHO" OF A SHORT STORY

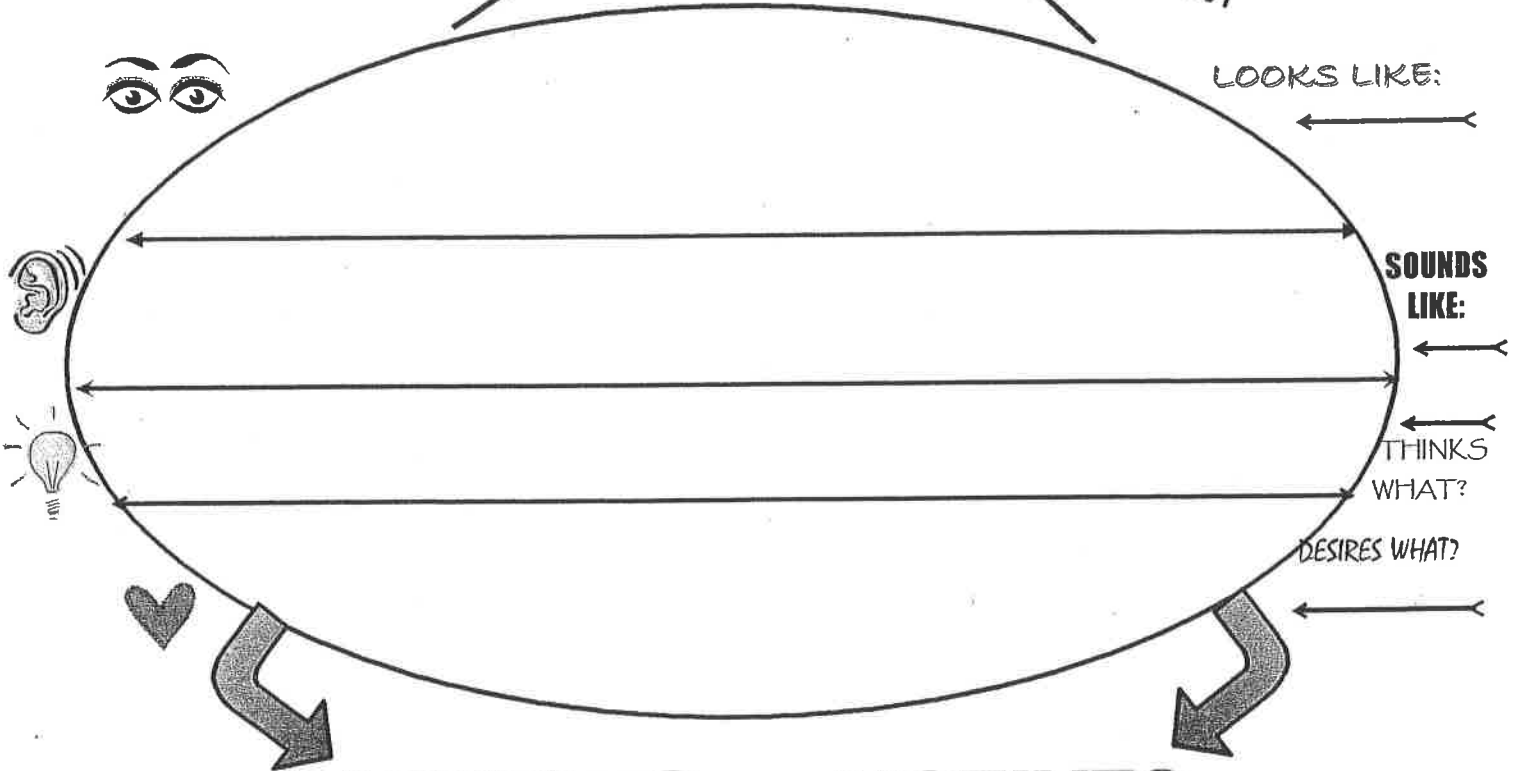
Name: _____

CHARACTERIZATION



(Focus of Narration)
Main Character
Who: _____

ROUNDED OUT



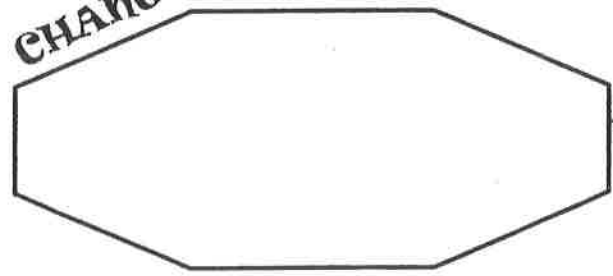
ACTIONS

MOTIVES

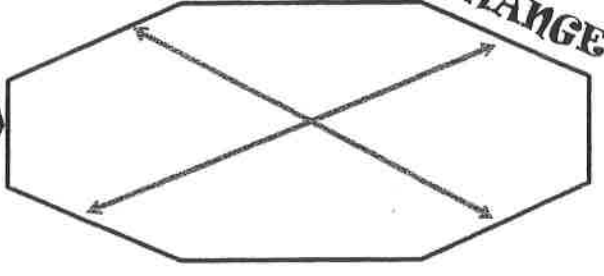
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DYNAMIC OR STATIC ?

CHANGE



NO CHANGE



THE CONFLICT OF A SHORT STORY

ANTAGONIST



The Antagonist of a short story is the Character OR Force that is the rival, opponent, or enemy of the main character (Protagonist). It helps to create conflict and dramatic action in the story. Keep in mind that the antagonist does not have to be a person.



FORCE

PICK ONE:

CHARACTER



Looks Like:



Sounds like:



Thinks what?



Characteristics



Desires What?



**OPPOSES
PROTAGONIST
HOW?**



THE "WHERE" OF A SHORT STORY

SETTING

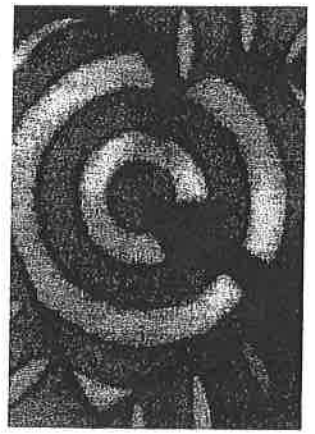
The setting helps make a story feel real and believable. It can be the backdrop or provide a mood. The setting creates boundaries, sets up challenges and restricts or provides opportunities. It sets the stage for characters to act, interact, and react.

Keep in mind, that in some stories the setting plays a pivotal role in the plotline, while in others it is not emphasized.



Element of Setting	
Geographical Location or General Locale	
Historical Period	
Beliefs of society or Social circumstances	
Season of the year	
Time of Day	
Specific setting for beginning of story	

THE "WHY" OF A SHORT STORY



PLOT

Using the character, antagonist, and setting that has been developed in the previous pages, create a plot outline of a story. You are not writing the actual story just mapping out the events.

Beginning

SET UP: introduce main character, setting (time and place); Create an INSTIGATING incident to get things going!

Middle

Rising Action: Events leading to the climax

Note: action can be physical, emotional, or psychological

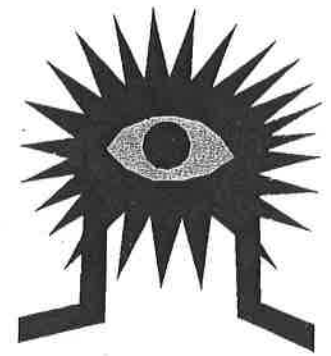
Climax: The point of highest emotional involvement or suspense

Falling Action: Events leading from the climax to the resolution or end

End

End of the central conflict; resolution or no resolution; final twist in story

THE VOICE OF A SHORT STORY



A main character, antagonist, setting, and plot outline have been established. Now determine what would be the best point of view for the story and CIRCLE IT. Whose eyes will we see the events through?

FIRST PERSON POINT OF VIEW

In the first person point of view, the narrator does participate in the action of the story. When reading stories in the first person, we need to realize that what the narrator is recounting may not be the objective truth. Question the trustworthiness of the accountings. (The narrator uses "I")

THIRD PERSON POINT OF VIEW

Here the narrator does not participate in the action of the story as one of the characters, but lets us know exactly how the characters feel. We learn about the characters through this outside voice. (The narrator uses "he", "she", "they")

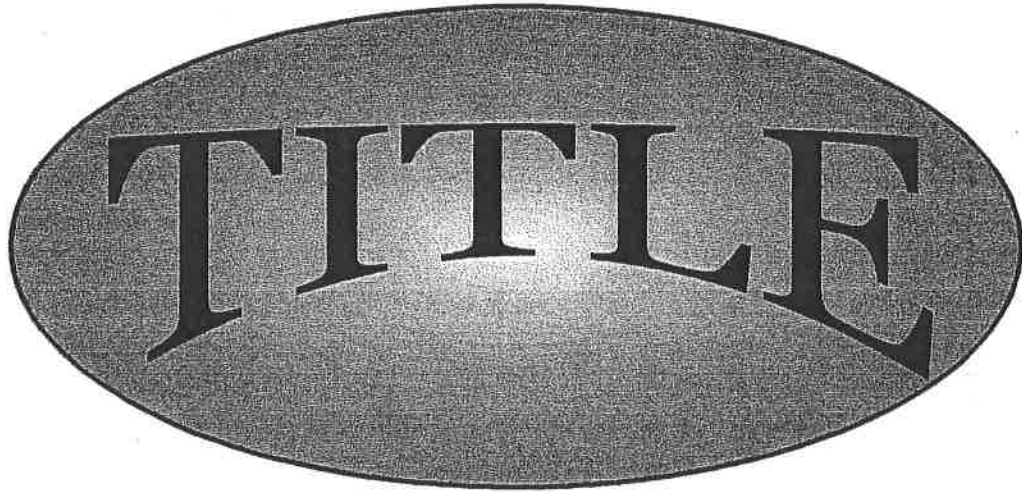
THIRD PERSON OBJECTIVE POINT OF VIEW

With the objective point of view, the writer tells what happens without stating more than can be inferred from the story's action and dialogue. The narrator never discloses anything about what characters think or feel, remaining a detached observer

THIRD PERSON OMNISCIENT AND THIRD PERSON LIMITED OMNISCIENT POINT OF VIEW

A narrator who knows everything about all the characters is all knowing, or omniscient..

A narrator whose knowledge is limited to one character, has a limited omniscient point of view.



The last step is to give this creative piece a title. Since short stories are in essence short, the title is very important. It usually points to the themes trying to be communicated by the author.

