

STORY WRITING

CLASS VIII ENGLISH

Short story

- ❑ A short story is meant to be read in a single sitting and therefore it should be as direct and brief as possible.
- ❑ A short story is a work of fiction and it usually focuses on one plot, one main character and a central theme.
- ❑ Short stories contain underlying themes that teach us to draw broader conclusions and to think on a wider level.

A short story has five key elements

Characters: A short story has few characters.

Setting: Time frame and place constitute setting of short stories.

Plot: As simple and as interesting as possible.

Conflict: It is the struggle between two sides of the theme of the story.

Conflict can be between characters, emotions, beliefs or thoughts.

It gives life to short stories.

Theme: The central idea or the main belief of the story is the theme.

Every word of the story should be written related to the theme.

Main elements of a short story

- An interesting start – the start of the story should be interesting enough to arouse curiosity
- Building the plot – this describes the sequence of events in the story in proper order
- A justified climax/ Conclusion – a very important part of the story is an apt ending or the climax of the story

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Always use past tense
- Focus on a single incident
- Add twists and turns
- Stick to word limit
- Give an appropriate title

Marking Scheme for short story writing

- Title & Moral - 1 Mark
- Content - 4 Marks
- Expression - 5 Marks
- (Coherence, relevance of ideas) (2½ marks)
- (Accuracy, appropriate words and correct spellings (2½ marks))

ASSIGNMENT

Develop a story in 150 – 200 words with the following beginning.

1. It was festive time. There was a lot of excitement in the air. The sound of crackers could be heard all around. Shashi was enjoying it every bit. But all of a sudden.....

2. It was a rainy day, and I was alone at home. It was pitch dark outside. Suddenly I heard someone knocking at my door...

Assignment

'Enjoying a cup of tea while sitting on my balcony on a Sunday morning, suddenly I felt a deep pain in my chest. I thought that this was the last moment of my life. I wanted to call my daughter, my husband and everybody to say the final Good Bye, but couldn't do so'

Imagine what happened after this. Did the family know what happened or did the woman die unnoticed? Explain what were the plans and aspirations of the woman at the last moment of her life. Write an imaginary story with a suitable title in 150-200 words.

**“SHORT STORIES CONSUME YOU FASTER.
THEY’RE CONNECTED TO BREVITY. WITH THE
SHORT STORY, YOU ARE UP AGAINST
MORTALITY. I KNOW HOW TOUGH THEY ARE AS
A FORM, BUT THEY’RE ALSO A TOTAL JOY.”**

ALI SMITH

THANK YOU



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