

Handout

Short Story Writing

Module 1 of 2

- Short story writing is a guided composition.
- The outline of the story or the sentence beginning the story is given to the students to construct a story.
- Only a few characters are used in it.
- Either first person narrative i.e. 'I' is the narrator or 'third person' narrative i.e. 'he', 'she', 'they', is used.
- Both present and past tense are employed in writing a story, for e.g. 'Sandeep goes to the playground and finds no one playing that evening. He gets worried and asks the security guard on the cycle what the matter is.'

OR

'Sandeep wanted to play with his friends, so he went to the ground but strangely he didn't find anyone playing there. Just then he saw the security guard cycling past him. He asked him, "Why is no one playing here today?" To this the security guard answered.....

- A mixture of reported speech and dialogues are used.
- Dialogues must be meaningful sentences and not merely a 'yes' or a 'no'.
- The outline that is given must be appropriately expanded into a story and not just filled in with a few words.
- Most short stories contain a moral, it would be interesting if you do not write the moral explicitly because every reader automatically understands / draws the message the story wants to convey.
- However, please follow the instructions given by your teachers regarding writing the moral separately.
