

Short Story Instructions

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*We have an idea we wish to communicate,
and a plot that underlines and reveals the idea in an interesting way.
We have solid, rounded characters for the story to happen to
and an equally solid and credible world for it to happen in.
Bearing all of the above notions in mind,
we can finally proceed to start work on the script itself.
— Alan Moore, Writing for Comics*

You have spent several weeks studying stories. Now for the fun part—write your own! Your story must have a minimum of 500 words. There is no maximum. Write a story that makes you proud you wrote it.

Write your story with:

1) Original Characters

The characters must be created by you, with clearly defined personalities, and each one should be different. Your main character (protagonist) must want something, and there must be someone (antagonist) keeping them from getting it.

2) Good Narrative Techniques

Tell your story with description and dialog, with characters doing and saying specific things, with dialog properly punctuated in quotation marks.

3) Introduction, Rising Action, Climax, Denouement

Have a well-structured plot that will

- 1) Introduce the characters, the setting, and the main conflict
- 2) Build in intensity of action and emotion
- 3) Reach a climax where your protagonist gets what they want (or doesn't)
- 4) Wraps up with a denouement that reflects on what happened

The Short Story is due Friday, 10/18

Print out your final draft and bring it to class Friday, 10/18, typed in 12-point Palatino or Times font and printed in black ink or toner. Do not use a pretty font! You can come to my room during Nutrition or Lunch to print out your story if you need to.

Staple the Grader behind your story. Don't lose it! Don't be a person who loses things.