

Grade 8 Short Story with a Twist Assignment

Short Story Narrative Writing Assignment



TASK: Using what you have learned about short stories over the past month, you will write a short story with a "twist" of your own. You must write the story independently and complete the brainstorming activities independently.

DATE DUE: The final good copy will be due: _____

However, there will be numerous points leading up to this deadline in which you will be expected to have portions of the assignment done and these checks will make up a portion of the assignment's evaluation. (ie. brainstorms and the proposal, rough copy, good copy)

GUIDELINES:

- ❑ Your story must be a maximum of 2 pages typed. The assignment must be typed using size 12 font and double spaced!
- ❑ Your story may have **ONLY** one main character.
- ❑ Your story must have a minimum of **ONE** and a maximum of 3 supporting characters.
- ❑ Your story must clearly fit on a plot graph (contain all 6 sections of a plot)
- ❑ Your story can include effective dialogue and will include description (imagery)
- ❑ Your story must clearly include at least one of the four types of conflict (man vs man, man vs nature, man vs society, man vs self)
- ❑ Attach the rubric to your final copy and don't forget to choose a creative and or appropriate title.

Proposal is due: _____

Rough Copy is due: _____

Good Copy is due: _____

English 8 ~ Short Story Proposal

Student Name: _____

Teacher Approval: _____

After having completed your "Narrative Writing Short Story Brainstorm" sheet, summarize your story using the following format. Your short story and character brainstorm activities should also be included with your proposal.

The story is about a _____
[brief description of main character - introduction]

who _____
[action or predicament which initiates plot - the inciting action]

because _____
[motivation]

but _____
[conflict; difficulty or obstacle main character faces - rising action]

so _____
[decision made in an attempt to resolve the conflict- crisis]

which leads to _____
[highest point of interest in the plot - climax]

and finally finishes with _____
[plot/conflict resolution, ending]

which shows _____
[theme]

Grade 8 Narrative Writing ~ Short Story Brainstorming

Name: _____ Due: _____

For this brainstorm, you are going to write down ideas for your story. Use point form and try to work as much DESCRIPTION into each section as you can. After the column is complete, choose a starting point for writing and begin your rough draft.

	Possible Story Ideas	Writing Tips
<p>Setting</p> <p>1. Where and when might my story take place -consider the following: What Country? What City? What Year? What Season? What Date?</p> <p>2. What adjectives can I use to describe my setting using imagery (must write at least 10 adjectives for each possible story)?</p>		<p>What sensory images (use descriptive and figurative language-metaphor/simile) will help you create this place for a reader?</p> <p>Imagery is language that appeals to the senses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Touch -Taste -Sight -Sound -Smell <p>e.g. Creating a picture in the readers mind through description</p>
<p>Mood</p> <p>1. What mood might I use in my story? 2. How might I create this mood?</p>		<p>The prevailing feeling that is created in the story through the dialogue & imagery</p> <p>Examples: tense, gloomy, dark, comedic.</p>

<p>Characters</p> <p>1. Who might my protagonist be? (Name, age, brief description him/her)</p> <p>2. Who might my protagonist be? (name, age, 5 facts about the character, and how they will get in the way of the protagonist).</p> <p>3. Who might some additional/supporting characters be - in addition to the protagonist and antagonist? (Names, ages, and 5 facts about each character)</p>		<p>Who will be the main character?</p> <p>Create a character you like!</p> <p>What do they want more than anything else in the world?</p> <p>What will his/her name be?</p> <p>How will he/she look and speak?</p> <p>What will the character's background be (personality, education, job, or status)?</p> <p>What are the character's motivations? (i.e. greed, jealousy, love, etc.)</p> <p>Why will the character act as he/she does?</p> <p>What will he/she want to believe?</p> <p>What will the character learn?</p> <p>What internal/external conflicts will the character need to resolve?</p>

<p>Introduction Action/Problem</p> <p>1. What could happen to get the story going and around which the story will revolve?</p> <p>2. What could be the major problem that the protagonist will struggle to resolve?</p>		<p>Create a secondary character to prevent your hero from succeeding.</p> <p>Throw rocks and obstacles and pox and pestilence at your hero.</p> <p>What/who could possibly stop your hero? Add them.</p>
<p>Conflict</p> <p>1. What could the major conflicts be in my story?</p> <p>2. Who might these conflicts be between?</p> <p>3. What types of conflict could these be and why?</p>		<p>What other things can blow your hero out of the water? Add them.</p> <p>How can you make it worse? Make it worse.</p> <p>How can you make it easier for your "villain" to succeed? Do it.</p>
<p>Rising Action</p> <p>What SPECIFIC events might happen after the problem is revealed while the protagonist is trying to resolve the problem? (Must include at least 6 events for each possible story)</p>		<p>What will happen to the conflict?</p> <p>How will the conflict develop?</p> <p>What will be its consequences?</p> <p>How will you create suspense?</p> <p>What will be the most suspenseful moment?</p>

		<u>Finding a Twist for your Story</u>
<p>Climax</p> <p>1. What might happen at the most interesting point in my story? (What have all of the other events been building up to?)</p>		<p>1. Reveal a secret about your main character.</p> <p>2. Change the impression your main character has of a minor character in the story.</p> <p>3. Offer an explanation of an event which happened earlier.</p> <p>4. Build in a series of clues so that your reader can guess at the ending.</p>
<p>Ending</p> <p>1. What will happen after the climax and at the end of my story?</p> <p>2. What type of ending will this be and why? (Cliffhanger? Left-hand turn? Ironic Twist? Finished Story?)</p>		<p>Let your hero save herself (or fail) <i>The "way out" isn't new. You've been setting up for it all along.</i></p> <p><u>Theme: What will be your story's central idea or insight into life? How will you express this point?</u></p>
<p>Point of View</p> <p>1. What point of view would I like to use when writing my story?</p> <p>2. Why do I think this point of view will work best for my story?</p>		<p>Who will tell the story-an observer or a character?</p> <p>How much will the story teller know-everything or what one character knows?</p> <p>Will the narrator speak in first or third person?</p>

Grade 8 Short Story Creative Writing Assignment Rubric

Name: _____ Story Title: _____

	CATEGORY/DESCRIPTION	4	3	2	1
PLOT:	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The setting, main characters, and mood are introduced in a clear and interesting format that makes the reader want to keep reading.</p>				
	<p>Inciting Incident</p> <p>The story contains a clear inciting incident in which the conflict in the story begins and the plot “takes off”</p>				
	<p>Rising Action</p> <p>The conflict is elaborated upon in an interesting and logical fashion.</p> <p>The action continues to build through the use of detailed/descriptive writing.</p>				
	<p>Conflict</p> <p>There is a clear point in the story in which the protagonist is forced to make a decision, and the result of this decision leads to the climax.</p>				
	<p>Climax</p> <p>There is a clear climax which is both a major turning point in the story as well as the story’s highest point of interest.</p>				
	<p>Ending</p> <p>There is a clear and well-thought out ending to the story that “fits” one of the these types of endings: (cliffhanger, ironic twist, left-hand turn or finished)</p>				
	<p>Overall Creativity and Effort</p> <p>Title is appropriate and original. Characters are unique and well named. Instructions are followed and creativity and effort is demonstrated in the story.</p>				
CHARACTERS:	<p>The story has one protagonist and at least one supporting character (e.g. antagonist)</p> <p>Each character is very well developed. They are detailed, realistic and believable</p> <p>Each character serves a clear purpose in the story</p>				

CONFLICT:	<p>The conflict in the story is focused on an important struggle faced by the protagonist</p> <p>The conflict serves a clear purpose in the story</p>				
DIALOGUE/ DESCRIPTION :	<p>The author effectively used dialogue and or description to both further the plot as well as reveal more information about the characters.</p>				
TECHNIQUES:	<p>The author made clear use of at least one of the following techniques: flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, irony, or symbolism.</p> <p>The author has used this technique to enhance the story.</p>				
WRITING PROCESS:	<p>The author has provided clear evidence of sufficient brainstorming and editing through the use of provided graphic organizers and several rough drafts.</p>				
MECHANICS	<p>The good copy of the story is free from punctuation, spelling, grammatical, and sentence errors (run-ons, fragments, comma splices, etc.)</p>				