

## Short Story Knowledge organiser – UKS2

| 5 Key elements of a short story (narrative) |   |
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| <b>Character</b>                            | A person (or animal) who takes part in the action of the story. This can include the protagonist (main character) and antagonist (the character in conflict with the main character). Short stories usually only have one main character, but there will sometimes be secondary characters too. |
| <b>Setting</b>                              | The time (past, present or future) and physical location. Authors often describe the landscape, scenery, buildings and the weather to give the reader a strong sense of the setting and provide context for the reader.   |
| <b>Plot</b>                                 | This refers to the beginning, middle and end, as well as events and actions that are central to the story. You'll often find a climax, problem or conflict and a resolution.  |
| <b>Conflict</b>                             | A struggle between two people or things, with the main character often involved. The plot and narrative is often driven by this challenge to give the story a purpose.  |
| <b>Theme</b>                                | The main message, idea or 'why' of a story. The theme is the central idea, belief, moral or lesson that the writer wants the reader to understand.  |

| Purpose – <b>Why</b> are we writing?  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep the reader engaged in a story and wanting to continue reading.</li> <li>✓ Create a fictional story that follows a character's daily events, usually with a problem to resolve.</li> <li>✓ Entertain the reader</li> </ul> |

| Organisation – <b>How</b> do we set it out?  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Paragraphs</li> <li>✓ Chronological order (events in time order)</li> <li>✓ Non-chronological (flashback / flashforward)</li> <li>✓ <i>In media res</i> – start in the middle of the story</li> <li>✓ Opening – Tension – Problem – Resolution</li> </ul> |

**What is a short story?**

A narrative (story) which often deals with a single incident (event). It will share many features with a novel but is much shorter and can usually be read in less than half an hour. They are often published in magazines or collected into an anthology with other short stories.



| Paragraphing - TIPTOP                |  |
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| When should I start a new paragraph? |  |
| <b>T</b><br>ime                      | If the time changes, you should start a new paragraph. So for example if you have used one of these words or phrases ('later', 'the next day', 'in December', 'At 2 O'clock') it's probably time to start a new paragraph.   |
| <b>P</b><br>lace                     | If the place you are describing changes or your characters move location, start a new paragraph. Use words such as 'nearby', 'in the distance' etc.  |
| <b>T</b><br>opic                     | When you need to talk about a new topic or subject, you should start a new paragraph. So, if you're describing a character and you've described their appearance but now you want to talk about their family, this might be a good place to start a new paragraph. |
| <b>P</b><br>erson                    | If you're describing one person and you want to talk about another, you should start a new paragraph. In the same way, when you are writing direct speech, you should start a new paragraph (new line) each time the speaker changes.                              |

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| <b>Subordinate Clause First</b>       | A subordinate word, phrase or clause adds further detail to the sentence.   | <b>When</b> it is noisy outside, it is difficult to read.  |
| <b>Relative clauses</b>               | A clause, which adds extra information about a specific noun in the sentence using a relative pronoun.                          | Tom broke the game, <b>which</b> annoyed Ali.  |
| <b>Fronted adverbials</b>             | A word or phrase that is used to add extra information about the verb or clause. After the fronted adverbial, you need a comma. | <b>Without a sound</b> , the boy tiptoed into the castle.  |
| <b>Expanded noun phrases</b>          | A phrase, which adds provides extra information about a noun.   | Harry hid in the <b>dark, gloomy cupboard under the staircase</b> .  |
| <b>Alternative nouns and pronouns</b> | To avoid repeating yourself, you can use these words to make your writing more cohesive.  | <b>The pair</b> entered the <b>maze</b> . Inside the <b>labyrinth</b> <b>they</b> were met by the sound of the Minotaur. |
| <b>Direct speech</b>                  | It can reveal information about the character through <b>what</b> they say and <b>how</b> they say it.                          | <b>"Look out!"</b> exclaimed Penny. <b>"You're going to bump your head!"</b>   |
| <b>Emotion-first</b>                  | Explain the emotion of the character to tell the reader how they are feeling.   | <b>Terrified</b> , Adam crept up the path.   |

| Rules of Direct Speech  |
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| 1. Speech marks (" ") are use to show what is spoken aloud by a character.<br>E.g. <b>"Hello. How are you?"</b> said Billy.                                   |
| 2. You start the speech marks before the first word spoken.<br>E.g. <b>He walked at and said, "Good to see you."</b>  |
| 3. You close the speech marks after the last word they speak not at the end of each sentence.<br>E.g. <b>"Would you like something to drink?"</b> Dan asked.  |
| 4. When someone new speaks you must start a new line.<br>E.g. <b>"Thank you. Do you have any cola?"</b> Billy requested.<br><b>"Of course,"</b> Dan answered. |
| 5. The first word of a new piece of speech must have a capital letter.<br>E.g. <b>Billy smiled and said, "Perfect!"</b>                                       |
| 6. The same rules of punctuation must be used in speech such as commas and question marks.<br>E.g. <b>"Do you want ice?"</b> he continued.                    |
| 7. You must always use punctuation to separate what is being spoken and the rest of the writing.<br>E.g. <b>"No ice thank you,"</b> Billy concluded.          |