

## Short Story Creative Writing Assignment

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“The scariest moment is always just before you start.” — Stephen King

**Due Date: October 23rd, 2017**

**Task:** write a descriptive, fictional short story that develops at least one character, incorporating the elements of short story writing that we have studied: characterization, plot development, theme, tone, setting, conflict and perspective. Your short story must be at least 750-1000 words and use the following quote as the theme of your story:

**“All that is necessary for evil to succeed is that good [people] do nothing.” Edmund Burke**

**First Step:** Before beginning the writing process, you must complete a plot diagram for your story. This will help you map out your ideas and make sure you have all the required elements for the assignment. You will need to submit the plot diagram along with your short story.

### Short Story Assignment Requirements:

- 1) The story must be 750-1000 words typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1- inch margins
- 2) Include a title and all the elements to a short story (plot, conflict, setting, point of view, and characters)
- 3) Hand in your plot diagram

Consider the elements below when writing the story:

**Introduction:** does it quickly and effectively engage the reader’s interest? Does it harmonize with the general tone of the story?

**Conflict:** is the conflict sharp enough to be interesting? Is it realistic?

**Plot line:** does the story develop logically? Is there any events that could be removed so that the story could be told more economically?

**Point of View:** is it consistent? If not, then is the shifting viewpoint used effectively? Is there a more effective way of telling the story and revealing the theme? Does it assist the flow of the narrative?

**Characters:** are they consistent? Sufficiently contrasting? Engaging? Have they been introduced and developed with clear, distinguishing characteristics? Are they sufficiently detailed to be realistic and not stereotypical?

**Ending:** does it leave the reader satisfied? Surprised?

**Title:** is the title suggestive? Brief? Does it appeal to the imagination? Does it reveal too much?

Criteria	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	
Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrates thorough knowledge of short story format; confidently demonstrates elements of plot.  Incorporates a well-thought-out theme or controlling idea	Demonstrates considerable knowledge of form (including elements of plot).  Incorporates a theme or controlling idea that shows considerable thought	Demonstrates some knowledge of form (story has a beginning, middle and end)  Incorporates a theme or controlling idea that shows some thought	Demonstrates limited knowledge of form  Incorporates a theme or controlling idea that shows limited thought	/10
Thinking and Inquiry	Uses planning skills with a high degree of effectiveness. Plot chart has all The necessary components with well-thought-out and articulated descriptions in each; details about characters and/or plot extend and enrich the original story.	Uses planning skills with considerable effectiveness. Plot chart has all of the necessary components with appropriate descriptions for each; characters' perspectives are well-developed, reflect the original accurately and few questions remain re: plot/setting, etc.	Uses planning skills with some effectiveness. Plot chart contains at least 4 of: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution, some details developed, still have unanswered questions re: plot and/or characters	Plot chart is present but incomplete; details need further developing, viewpoint and character Undeveloped and/or inconsistent in relation to original text	/10
Communication	Uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with a high degree of effectiveness  Narrative voice is highly effective in reflecting characters and setting	Uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with considerable effectiveness  Narrative voice is effective in reflecting characters and setting	Uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with some effectiveness  Narrative voice has some connection to characters and setting	Uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with limited effectiveness  Narrative voice has limited connection to characters and setting	/10
Application/Process	Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with a high degree of accuracy and effectiveness, edits with high degree of effect	Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with considerable accuracy and effectiveness, edits with considerable effect	Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with some accuracy and effectiveness, edits with some effect	Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with limited accuracy and effectiveness, edits with limited effect	/10

Comments:

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