What is a short story?
Short stories are simple forms of **fictional narratives**, (made-up stories). They are different from other types of narratives because of the following:

→Brevity (Shortness) - They are less than 20,000 words (80 pages)
→Uncomplicated plot - Very straightforward beginning, middle, end
→Few Characters - Only necessary characters in story.
→Conflict Solved - Story aims to come to simple conflict resolution
→Focus on **Plot** and **Conflict** - Main problem drives the story

THEME:
→Like most works of fiction, short stories are focused around a theme, (usually one), which can be used to teach a lesson, cause moral questioning, etc.

SETTING:
→Setting includes **where** and **when** the story occurs. This may be specific information or there may be clues, (i.e. how characters act, what they wear, the season, etc.)

CHARACTERS:
→Anyone directly involved in the story. They are divided into the following types:

MAIN CHARACTER(S)	SUPPORTING CHARACTER(S)	MINOR CHARACTER(S)
→Story focuses on their actions →Present through beginning, middle and end →Directly involved in central conflict of story	→Assist main character in an important way →In most of the story	→In story to provide realism to setting →Not necessarily important to the plot or conflict of the story

PLOT:
→Short stories usually have an uncomplicated plot, which can match a PLOT GRAPH:

	PART OF GRAPH	DEFINITION
A	Introduction	-Characters introduced
B	Inciting Incident	-Central conflict of story is introduced (the problem that must be solved)
C	Rising Action	-Plot develops as characters deal with conflict
D	Climax	-The point of highest action in the story. The "turning point"
E	Falling Action	-Plot events moving towards solution to story's conflict
F	Resolution	-Solution to main conflict within story
G	Conclusion	-End of story. Sometimes this is tied directly with the Resolution

Structure of a Plot Graph: