**ENG 2P SHORT STORIES: INTRODUCTION**

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**SHORT STORIES…**

Short stories present characters in a struggle (**conflict**) that is solved by the end of the story. Everything that happens in the story is known as the **plot**.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF SHORT STORIES…**

* **Length** – They are short. Less than 40 pages and can (usually) be read in one sitting
* **Few Characters** – Only those characters which play a necessary role in the story   
  are included and this is usually limited to a low number
* **Plot** – Simple plot but creates a mood and still includes a beginning, middle and   
  end. It is driven by a conflict
* **Theme** – Clear lesson or meaning to the story
* **Brief Time Line** – Story begins and ends within a short period of time

**PARTS OF A STORY**

Two main ingredients form a short story: **CONFLICT** and **PLOT**. The conflict is the   
central problem or crisis in the story. It is developed and driven by the plot, which are   
events that occur in the beginning, middle and end of the story. Other **literary   
elements** within a short story include:

* **Character(s)** – Those to whom the events happen are divided into different types
* **Setting** – Where and when story occurs; helps develop story
* **Point-of-View** – Method in which the story is told
* **Theme** – The central idea within the piece of writing; a comment on life

The difference between novels and short stories is that these elements are developed differently due to a shorter amount of space. **Developmental Devices** are often used to   
help make the story interesting, too. (Things like **flashback**, **dialogue**, **suspense**, etc.)

When referencing the title of a short story, the title appears in quotation marks.

Example: “Hansel and Gretel”, by the Brothers Grimm.