Short Stories

A short story is a piece of fictions that is usually only a few pages long. It often describes a conflict or problem that a character experiences. There is unity of setting and no subplot.

ELEMENTS OF A SHORT STORY

Plot – the sequence of events that unfold in the story

Setting – when and where the story takes place

Character – people, animals or imaginary creatures in the story

Theme – the overall message of the story

Example: True friends are there for you even when times are difficult.

Conflict – the struggle or tension present in a story

* Man vs. Man (X-Men)
* Man vs. Nature (2012, Day After Tomorrow)
* Man vs. Himself (Cast Away, Flight, Harry Potter)
* Man vs. Society (Pursuit of Happiness, The Help)
* Man vs. Technology (Jurassic Park)
* Man vs. Fate/The Unknown (Romeo and Juliet)

THE NARRATIVE POINT OF VIEW

The narrative point of view is the point of view from which the story is told. The narrator may be a character in the story or he/she may observe from the outside. The narration may also occur as the story takes place or after the events have already taken place.

First Person – the narrator explains the events from within the story and uses the personal pronoun “I”.

Third Person – the narrator speaks from a perspective outside of the story and refers to the characters in the third person (he, she, they).

Third Person Omniscient – a form of third person narration in which the narrator not only describes the characters’ actions, but their emotions as well. This is an all knowing narrator.