

# **NOTES FOR SHORT FICTION STORIES**

## **THE PARTS AND THEIR PURPOSES**

### **Title**

Grabs the readers' attention

Is capitalized and set apart

### **Paragraph #1**

Introduces the story Topic

Introduces the setting

Introduces the characters; gives them names (all of the characters are imaginary people/creatures)

### **Paragraph #2**

Introduces a problem to be solved by one or more of the characters

Starts building suspense through a series of events

The events are in chronological order

### **Paragraph #3**

Describes the crisis

Describes the decision to act

Describes initial action toward a solution

### **Paragraph #4**

Describes the problem-solving actions

Describes the final solution to the problem

The events are in chronological order

### **Paragraph #5**

Provides an ending to the story

Provides the author's message to the reader

## **THE SENTENCES IN THE PARAGRAPHS OF A FICTION STORY**

### **Paragraph #1: Introductory Paragraph**

Sentence #1: A Topic Sentence that introduces the story and maybe hints at the reason for the story or moral of the story.

Sentence #2 & 3: A Detail Sentence that introduces or tells more about the setting, which can include naming the place and the time and some details about the setting.

Sentences #3 & 4: Sentences that introduce the characters, what they are doing, and what they are saying. These characters are imaginary people or creatures.

Sentence #5: Sentence about a beginning event in the story that leads into other events in the next paragraph OR a Thesis Statement introducing the remaining big events in the story. (Note: The problem can be introduced in this paragraph as well.)

### **Paragraph #2: Rising-Action Paragraph**

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces the problem and starts the sequence of events.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe the events of the story in a way that builds suspense as to whether the characters can solve the problem. These are Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences.

### **Paragraph #3: Climax Paragraph**

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that leads into the climax of the story. It might introduce the crisis that the main character(s) are facing.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that further describe the crisis, the decision, and the initial actions followed to solve the problem. These sentences provide the turning point of the story.

### **Paragraph #4: Falling-Action Paragraph**

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces an event in the falling action of the story that includes a problem-solving action.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe the problem-solving activities of the characters and the final solution (including Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences).

### **Paragraph #5: Concluding Paragraph**

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces an ending event related to the closing of the story.

Sentences #2-5: Detail Sentences that describe the events at the end of the story showing what the characters are doing as the story closes.

Sentence #6: A Clincher Sentence that ends the story and provides the resolution for the story, a moral of the story, or the author's message to the reader.