



Write Your Own Short Story

Student Name _____ Date _____

Write your own short story using the childhood memory you chose for the multimedia collage that you created. Remember that this is supposed to be fiction. You will use your memory and your collage as **INSPIRATION**, but this story should not simply be a **RETELLING** of the event itself. This story should be at least 3 pages long.

A good short story includes a gripping opening, believable characters, a compelling conflict, and a thought-provoking ending. Before you begin writing, you should use this sheet to brainstorm these aspects of your story as well as to define a style that is appropriate for your content.

CHARACTERIZATION

Because this is a short story, let’s limit the number of characters to three or less. Use the prompts below to describe each of your characters.

Character #1

Name:

Age:

Describe an outfit this character might wear:

List three words to describe this character’s personality:

List one object the character would have or action the character would do to display each of these character traits:

Who is this character’s best friend, if any?

Briefly describe the best friend, if any.

Character #2

Name:

Age:

Describe an outfit this character might wear:

List three words to describe this character’s personality:

List one object the character would have or action the character would do to display each of these character traits:

“Three Shots”: Ernest Hemingway’s Nick Adams

Who is this character’s best friend, if any?

Briefly describe the best friend, if any.

Character #3

Name:

Age:

Describe an outfit this character might wear:

List three words to describe this character’s personality:

List one object the character would have or action the character would do to display each of these character traits:

Who is this character’s best friend, if any?

Briefly describe the best friend, if any.

CONFLICT

Use the questions below to establish the central conflict in the story.

1. What type of conflict(s) will drive this story? (person vs. person, self, nature, society, etc)
2. What forces or characters are in conflict with each other? Why?
3. How will the conflict reach its peak?
4. Will it be resolved, how?

AUDIENCE

1. How will you begin your story so your audience will want to keep reading?
2. How do you want your audience to feel at the end of your story? How will you create that feeling?

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STYLE

Style can be very important in enhancing the story you are trying to tell. It is imperative that your style match your story. Answer the questions below to describe and identify what your writing style will be for this story.

1. Will your sentences be long or short? Why?
2. Will your paragraphs be long or short? Why?
3. Will you be very descriptive about the setting or keep it simple? Why?
4. Will you use a lot of adjectives/adverbs or just a few? Why?
5. Will you use a lot of dialogue or maybe none at all? Why?
6. Will your dialogue be proper English or vernacular? Why?
7. Whose perspective will this story be from? Will it be written in first or third person? Why?

Now it's time to write your story!