SHORT STORY TEMPLATE

START DATE –

DONE DATE –

7500 words maximum

***Every sentence must do one of two things: reveal character or advance the action.***

**THEME**

Concept presented to reader

Statement about theme

**SITUATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

**TAKEAWAY** (see Promises)

What is this story about?

What are the author’s goals?

Do you give value? Enjoyment? Do you make readers think, make them feel?

Do you excite them? Surprise them? Alarm them? Anger them?

Do you touch them in any way?

A feeling? Which one? To what degree?

A memory of a story event or events?

The memory of a character? What memory specifically?

An urge to act? On what? What kind of action?

Certainty about something? What something?

Clarity?

Awareness? Of what?

Insight? On what topic?

Curiosity? Over what?

A life lesson? Which?

A few laughs? Tears? Groans?

**POV**

Plot driven or character driven?

**TONE**

**SCENE and SETTING**

**DURATION**

**PREMISES** – about the event

Are the 5W’s answered is 1st act?

Who –

What –

When –

Where –

Why –

How -

**PROMISES**

end will be known, HOW –

transformative for local world of characters HOW -

Characters, believable – HOW -

Different world – HOW -

Mystery - HOW –

Visualization experience – HOW –

Problem - HOW -

Event – HOW -

Significant characters will be in conclusion – HOW -

**VOICE**:

Author -

Narrator -

Audience –

Market –

**CHARACTERIZATIONS**:

Summaries:

Drives –

Goals –

Flaws -

**GOALS**

What is reason for goal? motivation -

HOW -What is plan to reach goal?

Reward

**STAKES**

Short range -

Long range -

**CONFLICT**

w/ environment -

w/ self -

w/characters -

w/ antagonist -

w/ unseen -

**PLOT OUTLINE:**

Inciting action -

Principle action -

Summary:

ACT 1 – setup

Inciting incident

Plot point 1

ACT 2 – confrontation

midpoint

Plot point 2

ACT 3 – resolution

climax

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