

Independent Study: **SHORT STORY**

EVALUATION

A short story is evaluated for the preface, mechanics [variety in sentence structure, grammar and usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation], diction, form and structure [introduction, unity, coherence, conclusion], content [originality, creativity, plot, characterization, setting, atmosphere]

STEPS

1. Use **Worksheet #1-SS** to select and develop a conflict.

Note: A short story is based on one of the four types of conflict: individual vs individual, individual vs himself/herself, individual vs the environment, or individual vs the supernatural [including fate].

2. Use **Worksheet #1-SS** to develop the basic plot outline, based on your chosen conflict. Decide the way the conflict will be resolved; then create the steps necessary to start, develop, and resolve the conflict.

Note: Do not introduce sub-plots. The length of the assignment does not permit the development of more than one plot or the use of more than two or three characters.

3. Use **Worksheet #2-SS** to identify the main characters, usually two or three. Indicate how the characters relate to one another. Decide the way each character is to be introduced.

4. Use **Worksheet #3-SS** to select the setting, both time and place. Determine the way you will introduce the setting and build the atmosphere.

5. Follow the outline to write the rough draft. Do not worry about sentence structure, paragraph structure, grammar, or spelling.

6. In the first revision, concentrate on the content. The following questions should be used as a guide during this step:

- Do the events follow logically?
- Is enough information provided about the characters so that they are believable and act in a manner that is consistent with the characteristics provided?
- Is the conflict resolved in a satisfactory manner?
- Is the setting appropriate for the plot?
- Are all the loose ends tied up?

8. In the second revision, concentrate on improving your writing style. Correct spelling and grammatical errors. Most writing programmes provide such checking features.