

## Short Story and Novel

**A Short Story** is a work of fiction which is usually written in prose depending on specific characters and usually having one thematic focus. It is a mixture between realism and symbolism.

**A Novel** is a work of fiction that is usually written in prose, focusing on many characters and events, and usually having more than one theme. It gives more details and shows life in a longer and deeper way.

### The Elements of the Short Story and Novel

#### 1) Condensation (**only for short story**)

Condensation means the writer uses a small number of words to explain many ideas.

Short stories are short, so the writer must be clear and direct without long explanations.

Example:

Instead of writing many sentences to describe sadness, the writer may write:

“He looked at the empty chair and sighed.”

This short sentence gives many ideas like loss, sadness, and loneliness.

#### 2) Symbolism

Symbolism means using objects, colors, or actions to represent deeper ideas or meanings.

There are two types of symbols:

##### a) Conventional Symbols

These are symbols that most people already understand and agree on their meaning.

Examples:

- White dove → Peace
- Red rose → Love
- Dark clouds → Trouble or sadness
- Light or sun → Hope

#### b) Private Symbols

These are symbols created by the writer, and their meaning is special to the story.

Example:

In a story, a writer may use a broken watch to represent lost time or regret.

This meaning is created by the writer, not known to everyone before.

#### 3) Method of Narration

Method of narration means the way the writer tells the story.

It shows who is telling the story and from what point of view.

There are three main types of narration:

##### a) First-Person Narration

In first-person narration, the writer tells the story as a character in the story. We only know what that one character knows, thinks and feels.

Key words used:

I — me — my — we

Example:

“I walked into the dark room and felt afraid.”

## b) Third-Person Narration

In third-person narration, the writer tells the story as an outside observer. The narrator is not inside the story, but tells what happens to the characters.

Key words used:

He — she — they

Example:

“She walked into the dark room and felt afraid.”

## c) Omniscient Narration

Omniscient narration is a special type of third-person narration. Omniscient means “knows everything”, so narrator knows everything about all characters like their thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Example:

“Ali felt afraid, but Sara was excited because she knew the surprise waiting inside.”

The narrator knows every character’s thought, the narrator knows past, present, and future and it gives full understanding of the story.

## 4) Conflict

Conflict means the struggle or problem in the story.

It is usually between characters, or inside a character, or with nature.

There are three types of conflict:

### a) Internal Conflict (Psychological)

This conflict happens inside the character’s mind. The character is fighting with his feelings or thoughts.

Examples:

A student feels afraid to tell the truth but also feels guilty for lying.

A girl wants to forgive her friend, but she still feels angry.

#### b) External Conflict

This conflict happens between a character (hero) and another character.

Examples:

- A hero fights a villain.
- Two friends argue because of jealousy.
- A detective tries to catch a criminal.

#### c) Supernatural Conflict

This conflict happens between a character and nature or supernatural forces. The character fights nature, God, animals, or strange forces.

Examples:

- A man struggles to survive during a storm
- A sailor fights huge ocean waves
- A character faces a monster or beast

#### 5) Setting

Setting is the time and place where the story happens.

Examples:

- Place: A small village, a school, a desert
- Time: At night, in winter, in 1990

- Example sentence:

“The story happens in a quiet village during a cold winter night.”

## 6) Imagination

Imagination is the mental picture created in the reader’s mind. It helps the reader see the story in their mind.

Examples:

- When the writer describes a dark forest, the reader imagines trees, shadows, and silence.
- When reading about a golden sunset, the reader imagines colors in the sky.

## 7) Theme

Theme is the main idea or message of the story. Theme is what the story teaches or talks about.

Examples:

- Friendship
- Love
- Honesty
- Courage

## 8) Plot

Plot is the order of events in the story. Plot is what happens first, next, and last in the story.

Simple Plot Example:

1. A boy loses his dog
2. He searches everywhere
3. He finally finds the dog

4. He feels happy again

This order makes the story clear and meaningful.

#### 9) Characterization

Characterization is the way the writer shows the personality of characters. It explains what characters are like (kind, brave, selfish, etc.).

There are three main ways:

##### a) Dialogue

Dialogue means the conversations between characters.

Example:

Ali said, "Don't worry, I will help you."

Ahmed: "Thank you".

##### b) Narrative Point of View

This means how the narrator describes the character's thoughts and actions.

Example:

"Sara was nervous before the exam, but she tried to stay calm."

→ This shows Sara is anxious but strong.

##### c) Irony

Irony happens when something unexpected or opposite happens.

Examples:

- A police officer steals money
- A man who hates rain becomes a weather reporter

THE NOVEL	THE SHORT STORY
It is a long narrative form more than 15,000 words.	It is shorter, with less than 15,000 words.
It displays a large number of characters.	It has a limited number of characters.
A novel describes the events.	The action is short and simple.
Detailed description is used to describe the action.	The ideas are expressed with a minimum number of words through symbolism.

HERO	ANTI HERO
The story action centers around him/her	The action still involves him/her
Usually brave, kind, or strong	May not be brave or noble
Often solves the main problem	May be the main reason of the problem

Prince Rayan lived in a peaceful kingdom with tall towers and wide gardens. One day, a terrible storm destroyed the bridge that connected the village to the castle. Many villagers were trapped and could not reach safety. Prince Rayan quickly organized a rescue. He led his knights across the broken bridge, helping everyone reach the castle safely. Thanks to his bravery and smart thinking, no one was hurt, and the kingdom celebrated his courage. The prince showed that a true royal hero protects his people and acts wisely in danger.