

## 30 Day Author Platform Challenge Worksheet 15

After reading Day 17, work through the following exercises.

A short story can be identified by its **brevity** (usually between 4 and 12 A4 pages in length), **sense of completion** (a satisfying ending, often known as the “twist in the tale”), **concentration** (a moment is described instead of months or years), and **intensity** (focussing very sharply on one thing, idea or character).

1. **Exposition.** This is the setting, atmosphere and basic situation at the beginning of your story. This must lead to the central conflict.  
Write the opening of your story.

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2. **Conflict.** Once you’ve established your situation (nr.1), you must have a central action or conflict.  
This can be against an enemy, society, forces of nature or something within the protagonist.  
What is the conflict in your story?

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The conflict must build until it reaches a crisis/climax. The **climax** can take the form of a decisive action (acceptance, refusal, departure, etc.), a physical encounter (a kiss, a punch, etc.), a dramatic incident (an accident, etc.) or a dramatic event (a birth, etc.).

How will the conflict build to a climax in your story?

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3. **Denouement.** Literally, the unravelling. It presents the outcome of your story. The outcome may be an obvious victory or defeat, an unexpected solution, intervention from an outside force, a sense of temporary stability, a moment of understanding or realisation. Try for a “twist in the tale” here – it makes for an exciting end. (e.g. digging for treasure ends up with a box filled with bones instead of gold and jewels.) What you’re your story’s denouement be?

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4. Now go and write your story properly!
5. Edit and rewrite and *proofread* before loading it to Wattpad.