

Student Handout: Unit 3 Lesson 1



You Want To Be Anyone, Go Anywhere, And Do Anything? Keep Reading!

What Is A Short Story?

Suggested time: 60 Minutes

What's important in this lesson:

Understanding the elements of short stories, recognizing these in television programs and other media, and understanding how authors create good short stories.

Complete these steps:

1. To assess your understanding of short story terminology, complete the “Short Story Elements Matching Exercise” diagnostic. Check your understanding with your teacher, or use the Answer Key if your teacher provides it.
2. With a partner or a group of students, discuss favorite TV shows and how they use the short story elements. Identify plot, character and setting. Identify the initial incident of specific episodes. What really sparks the conflict, complication or mystery?
3. Complete the “Anticipation Guide” Handout 1 and hand it in to your teacher. These quotations—many by short story writers—are intended to get you thinking out of the box about short stories.
4. Answer the reflection questions for Unit 3, Lesson 1 in your Writer’s Notebook and hand in them to your teacher. Write any additional questions you may have for your teacher in the reflection activity.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Completed “Anticipation Guide” Handout 1.
2. Completed answers to the questions for the Unit 3, Lesson 1, Reflection Activity, Writer’s Notebook

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Questions for the teacher:

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Short Story Elements Matching Exercise

Match each element with the correct definition by writing the letter in the appropriate blank.

___ Goal	A. The event that creates the problem or conflict
___ Character	B. How the main characters try to accomplish the goal
___ Consequence	C. The series of related events that makes up a story
___ Resolution	D. The time and place and context of the story's action
___ Plot	E. Whether or not the goal is achieved
___ Internal Response	F. What the main characters decided to do in response to the initiating event (the goal they set)
___ Setting	G. How the main characters react emotionally to the initiating event
___ Initiating Event	H. A person in the story
___ Point of View	I. The central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work
___ Theme	J. The first person or third person who is telling the story

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Anticipation Guide

Read the following quotations and place a check mark in one of the columns.

Disagree

Statement

Agree

Disagree		Statement	Agree	
Very	Some		Very	Some
		<p>There is a treasure in every book. ~Walt Disney~</p>		
		<p>Life happened because I turned the pages. ~Alberto Manguel~</p>		
		<p>You've really got to start hitting the books because it's no joke out there. ~Spike Lee~</p>		
		<p>Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life. ~Mortimer J. Adler~</p>		
		<p>Reading makes immigrants of us all. It takes us away from our home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere. ~Hazel Rochman~</p>		
		<p>Read in order to live. ~Gustave Flaubert~</p>		