

The background of the slide is an abstract composition of soft, flowing lines in shades of blue and white. The lines originate from the left side and curve towards the right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors transition from a deep blue on the far left to a bright white on the far right.

The Short Story

Understanding Short Stories

- Short stories require you to understand and evaluate them on the basis of just a few details and events.

Title of the Short Story

- Think carefully about the title and its possible meanings and implications.

Elements

- The elements of short fiction include plot and structure, point of view, characterization, setting, imagery, language, and theme.

Plot and Structure

- Plot and structure are related, but plots usually center on human beings and their actions, and structure often follows the ABCDE formula (action, background, development, climax, ending).

Points of Views

- Points of view vary and include first person, second person, and omniscient.

Characters

- As you analyze and evaluate the characters in a short story, consider these questions:
- Desires of characters?
- How do the characters relate to each other?
- Identify protagonist and antagonist?
- Does gender, class, race, etc. play a role?
- Trust the characters' views of one another?
- Function of dialogue?

Setting

- Setting provides a context for actions.

Imagery and Language

- Images appeals to the reader's senses—usually the visual sense—and may appear in the form of metaphors and other figures of speech.

Theme

- The theme of the short story is the main claim it seems to make, best identified as an assertion, a proposition, or a statement.

Writing and Argument

- In writing an argument about a short story, remember to formulate an issue worth addressing.