

Short Story Plot Outline

For more information about plot outlines, go to: <https://www.novel-software.com/genrestorytemplates>

Act 1

A character	In a short story you can often get away with characters being larger than life, or having distinctive qualities that are more exuberant, because the reader won't be experiencing the character for so long that these characteristics begin to become tiresome or irritating.
Is in a situation	Very quickly you need to introduce the character's world and their place in it. What is interesting about this character and their life? Make sure the reader feels excited and intrigued.
With a problem	At the heart of all good fiction is conflict. What problem does your character have to solve? Try to get to the problem as quickly as possible (within the first few paragraphs) so the reader is hooked and needs to know how the problem is going to be resolved.

+ Add Act Item Delete Act

Act 2

They try to solve the problem	The character should begin to make efforts to solve their problem.
But fail, making it worse	But these efforts have the opposite effect, and the originally small problem begins to grow into something really serious.

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Act 3



They make a final attempt which may succeed or fail	The protagonist makes a final, last ditch effort to save the day. This effort can solve the problem or destroy everything, depending on what sort of story you're writing.
The consequence is not as expected	A staple of the short story is the twist. So as close to the end as possible (preferably at the very end of the last sentence) there should be some unexpected twist to leave the reader with a parting thrill.

+ Add Act Item Delete Act

Character Driven Plot Outline

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Act 3

Decisive - climax - protagonist must choose between 'want' and 'need'	Remember right back at the beginning when we said that the character has two things missing from their life - the thing they want and the thing they need? Right here is where you make them face a choice between the two. This is the climax of the story, where the protagonist must actively make their decision. They don't have to choose right, but the consequences of their choice must be poetic.	 
Complete - The protagonist gets what they deserve, based on their choice	The protagonist gets what they deserve. In the vast majority of cases, they will have correctly chosen what they need and will now be fulfilled in themselves.	