# Notebook

## Plan a Short Story

### Brainstorm a Topic

1. Freewrite at least two ideas that come into your mind for possible short stories. They may be based on real life, or completely made up, or anywhere in between. They may be ideas you think of on the spot or ones you’ve thought of before but never written.

Type your answer here.

### Planning a Story

1. From your brainstorming, select the one idea that you would most like to expand into a full-fledged short story.

Type your answer here.

1. Now you can make a working outline of your story. Answer the questions provided for each point of a narrative arc.
2. **Exposition:** What do readers need to learn at the beginning about the characters, the setting, and the basic situation?

Type your answer here.

1. **Complicating Incident:** What important problem arises for your main character? Why is it important?

Type your answer here.

1. **Rising Action:** What obstacles frustrate the main character in trying to solve this problem? Give the obstacles in chronological order.

Type your answer here.

1. **Climax:** What happens at the turning point of the story?

Type your answer here.

1. **Falling Action:** Does the character get what he or she wants? How is the character better or worse off in the end?

Type your answer here.

1. Take some time to envision your characters in detail. Complete the table by writing the traits of each character. For the main character, also state how he or she changes. For the other characters, write how they affect the plot.

**Character Profiles**

| **Character Type** | **Character Name** | **Description of Character** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Main Character | Type name here. | Type your answer here. |
| Second Character | Type name here. | Type your answer here. |
| Third Character (optional) | Type name here. | Type your answer here. |