

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Short Story Characteristics**

* **Short** - Can usually be read in one sitting.
* **Concise**:  Information offered in the story is meaningful to the tale being told.  This is unlike a novel or book, where the story can go away from the main plot
* Usually tries to leave behind a **single idea** or effect.  Usually, though not always built around one character, place, idea, or act.
* Because they are concise, writers depend on the reader bringing **personal experiences** and **prior knowledge** to the story.

There are four major components of the short story:

1. **PLOT**
2. **SETTING**
3. **CHARACTERS**
4. **THEME**

**PLOT**

* The action that takes place in the story.  It is a series of connected happenings and their result.  In order to have a result, we must have an initial event, or conflict.

**Stages of a Plot**

* Introduction of characters
* The situation:  Initial conflict
* The generating circumstances, which create a
* Rising action – heightened anticipation for the reader
* Climax - highest point of anticipation - “make or break” for the main character.
* Falling action  and Conclusion.   These two are also known as a denouement.

**Short stories usually have properties like the following:**

* Dramatic conflict.  Usually the basis of the story.  Source of the problems which may or may not be overcome in the climax.
* Foreshadowing.  May be used to leave clues in the story to lure readers to try to predict the ending.
* Repetition.  At the least, it helps drive home a point. It can also be used to create other literary devices.
* Suspense. Draws readers to the work.

**SETTING**

The background against which the incidents of the story take place.  Not merely a place, it includes the place where, the time when, and social conditions under which the story moves along.

* This can include atmosphere , the tone and feeling of a story, i.e. gloomy, cheery, etc.
* In one form or another, setting is essential to the story.  Often, the relevance of the story is lost in another setting.

**CHARACTERS**

There must be living beings in the story that think or act in order to keep the story going.  They must seem like living and feeling individuals in order for us to feel strongly about them

The worst thing that could happen for a writer is that you feel indifferent toward the characters. If we don’t care for the characters, we are not inclined to keep reading.

FOUR METHODS OF PRESENTING A CHARACTER:

* Actions or thoughts of the character.
* Conversations the character engages in.
* Conversations of other characters about a third character.
* Author’s own opinion.  This might be overt, or may be implied.

**Points of View: Presentation of a Story**

•Author Omniscient (all knowing, all seeing).  This is a *third person*  point of view.  The omniscient author, writing in third person, sees whatever he wants to see, inside or outside his character, in privacy or public, and interprets as he chooses.

•Author participant *(first person).* The author may be the main character, or could be a secondary character.

•Author as an observer *(3rd, person)*.  Involves objective treatment, as though the story teller had no inner sight into the character’s thinking or behaviour.

•Multiple story tellers *(3rd. Person).*

**THEME**

The total meaning of the story.  IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE TIED UP IN A SIMPLE MORAL. In many cases, stories are packages that allow readers to see the outcomes of certain behaviours. Without a theme, the story lacks meaning or purpose.

Sometimes the theme is stated, sometimes it is only implied.  In other stories, the theme may be a direct refutation of a traditional theme.

Short Story 1

A Game Of Cards by Witi Ihimaera

1. Describe an older grandparent or someone very old that you know. What things do they do that you consider unusual.

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1. Who was sick?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why was the house called the museum?

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1. What were the games that Nanny loved?

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1. What would the ladies gossip about?

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1. What was Mrs Heta’s greatest asset?

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1. Why did the narrator wonder how they ever remained friends?

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1. What was the only game the narrator knew how to play?

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1. How did the room smell?

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1. What did everybody do when they knew Nanny was dying?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did they do this?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why were cards important in this story?

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1. List as many NZ word as you can find. This includes Maori words.

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# Writing Task

Explain to someone how to play \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [the name of a favourite card game]

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Short Story 2

The Beginning of the Tournament by Witi Ihimaera

1. Describe a family gathering that you have been to. Describe the things that went on.

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1. What time of year was the hockey tournament?

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1. Where was the hockey tournament?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did the narrator have to bring a friend?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How did the narrator persuade Jerry to come?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How did Jerry react when he saw Mere?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why was Jerry surprised when he saw the field and other players?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the Grand Parade?

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1. What does conspicuous mean and why did this word apply to Jerry?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Jerry thought another team should have won the parade. Why did the narrator think that the Waituhi team won the parade?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did the narrator’s father think Waituhi won the parade?

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1. What was unusual about the rules for the hockey matches?

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1. What is the real purpose of the tournament?

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1. Why does the story end the way it does?

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1. What does derisive mean?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Write a different ending to the story.

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# Beginning of the tournament

N M J N E V E S D U P R G M S T I C K B

E A E T P O V E R T Y B A Y Q K P A O E

N L R E R A E Y T S A L T I N O W K S S

G O T R T O C G N I K O O L D O O G Y T

U N I S A I H O S D I K E L T T I L E D

S J I N I T N S M T E A S I N G A V S R

W F A T U H O G S P S E L C N U D T R E

O Q N G A E W R T I E E R E F E R A E S

C R A C K E R F R O M T H E P U B L J S

G J O T W J H U O Y G A I F M T N L Y E

N X M K Q X F C A D R E E T J K O F E D

I S E I T N U A T N A R T T I K T O L T

K W G R A N D P A R A D E H X O G R O S

L K C O D D A P W O C H R J E U N H H A

I T O U R N A M E N T K W A M R I E O O

M D R I A F Y A L P V X Y B N H L R C C

P E S T E R I N G O A L O H Y G L A K T

X S H I N P A D S G C O U S I N E G E S

E W A I T U H I R A T I U G I B W E Y A

N O T F A I R R D S R E N N I W T B B E

AUNTIES

BESTDRESSED

CHEATING

COMPETITION

COUSIN

COWPADDOCK

CRACKERFROMTHEPUB

DADRANG

EASTCOAST

GOAL

GOODLOOKING

GRANDPARADE

GUITAR

GUMBOOTS

HOCKEY

HOLEYJERSEYS

JERRY

LITTLEKIDS

MEETINGTOGETHER

MERE

MILKINGCOWS

MOANA

NARRATOR

NOTFAIR

PESTERING

PLAYFAIR

POVERTYBAY

REFEREE

SEVEN

SHINPADS

STICK

TALLFORHERAGE

TEAMISSHORT

TEASING

TOURNAMENT

UNCLES

WAITUHI

WELLINGTON

WHANAU

WHANAUREUNION

WHISTLE

WINNERS

WONITLASTYEAR

Short Story 3

Fire On Greenstone by Witi Ihimaera

1. What is sentimental value? Give a definition.

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1. List five things of sentimental value and next to each thing write what they think of or

are reminded of when they look at it.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why would it be bad if you lost any of these things?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why does Tama feel that Miro is still with him?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. When does the narrator understand why Tama felt this way?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you think Tama was pretending that Miro was still with him in the homestead a year

after she actually died? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. List four things that were lost in the fire and next to each put the person or people that

might find the loss significant.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why were these objects important? What was the real value in the objects?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who had taken the ivory covering off the piano key and why?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why was this short story called Fire On Greenstone?

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1. List Maori words used in the story and any English words that you do not understand.

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1. Illustrate a scene from the story.

# Fire on Greenstone

E A S T C O A S T A T E H S R M N E F I C T I O N

A N T I Q U A T E D V E H I C L E S X T S T G O R

B E G I N N I N G O F T H E T O U R N A M E N T S

Y I S I T I Y R O T S T R O H S M U G S E D A U R

F T S O B E U G R E E E A N B U R N I N G O R N A

E I D S C U A N A H W R W N B E I O U O W U O Z E

U E R D M G G R A V A A E O U T S J X O P J P O P

L S A E P O L S G N I L K R A P S D L A R E M E S

A K C L O V K J M T A I J K U K O G K W A I V E U

V A F L S N T E U E T M S O A N S K I U U T X S R

L O O A P O G H Y A E R A I E U A T O N I O D B E

A L E H O D I R K G E T N I O B I M A M B A D U P

T C M U T R D A E L R G I N A I A N E R V A S L U

N R A M E A M Y L E A E I N H M A K E H E N N C R

E E G I C Y O O E K N M E I G M E H E T E A O F E

M H A T I E R K O T U S M N A H T R S R N M A O P

I T T I D V F P O L T A T M P A O E E N M I T G O

T A I K O A I C E M E E A O E O M U Y H U N M N L

N E Z A B R X Y G R C T R F N O U S S H O A P I D

E F W T O G F L A M E S D A H E G N A E N R S K T

S T E E H S Y G O L A E N E G R G K A A W R I A O

P O V E R T Y B A Y V L T O A I A N W M K A T M M

M U E S U M E H T R D Q C V Z W C A B H U T Z W C

U L U C K Y C H A R M U E Z I A M N E T T O R P A

S U I P U I P C W H A K A P A P A A D N A R E V T

A GAME OF CARDS

ANTIQUATED VEHICLES

BEGINNING OF THE TOURNAMENT

BODICE TOPS

BURNING

CARVED FEATHER BOXES

CIGARETTE

EAST COAST

EMERALD SPARKLING SLOPE

FEATHER CLOAKS

FICTION

FIRE ON GREENSTONE

FLAMES

GENEALOGY SHEETS

GRAVEYARD

HOMESTEAD

JOE BAKER

KAINGA KOPIRO

KING OF CLUBS

KUIAS

LUCKY CHARM

LUMINOUS GLOW

MAKA TIKO BUM

MANAWA

MEETING HOUSE

ME HE MANURERE

MIRO HEREMAIA MANANUI

MOKO

MOKOPUNA

MRS HETA

NANNYS GRAVE

NARRATOR

OLD TOMCAT

PERUPERU SPEARS

PIUPIUS

PORANGI

POVERTY BAY

ROLLER SKATING

ROTTEN MAIZE

SENTIMENTAL VALUE

SHORT STORY

SMOKEY GREEN POUNAMU

TAKITIMU HALL

TAMA MANANUI

THE MUSEUM

URUPA

VERANDA

WAITUHI

WAKAHUIA

WHAKAPAPA

WHANAU

WITI IHIMAERA

# Short Story 4

# Examination Day by Henry Slesar

This story is set in the future and the setting is vital to the story.

1. Describe the setting with as much detail as you can.

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1. Why is the setting so important?

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The story has a surprise ending. Find as many details as you can that:

1. hint that it is better to do badly in the test

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1. suggest that Dickie might be quite intelligent.

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1. What sort of a society do the Jordans live in?
2. What are the authors thoughts about this society and how do you know?

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1. Apart from the idea that the society in the story does not want intelligent people, what other information are we given about the society?

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1. This story contains irony. Explain what irony is and describe the ironies within the story. Focus on the dialogue.

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Think of as many reasons both for and against having intelligent people in society. List them.

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**Short Story 5**

**Hobnail**

1. Whose point of view is predominant in this story?

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2. What details can you point out that show that the events are seen through the eyes of a little girl?

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3. What are her concerns and worries?
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4. Why do you think the author chose a child to be the main character?
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5. How does the weather reflect the heroes' state of mind?

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6. What strange sounds and noises do they hear?

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7. What natural phenomena and animals are there in the story (e.g. a moonless night or an owl)?

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8. Is the family religious?

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9. What is their religion?

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10. How does the mother try to comfort her child?

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11. Why is she singing "Precious Lord" to her?

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10. Do you think that the mother was also scared? Why didn't she show her fear?

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11. What do you think Fannie's reaction would be if she heard that her mother had seen a man without a head?

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12. Were you scared when you were reading the story?

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13. Was the end unexpected to you?

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14. What moments do you find particularly creepy?

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15. What features make this story a "typical" horror story?

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16. Do you remember other horror stories or films in which a child is the main character?

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**Short Story 6**

**Mr Tucker by Allan Marshall**

Mr Tucker was the head teacher. He did not wear glasses. His eyes frightened you even when you hung your head and refused to face them. They were sharp and hard and cold and he used them like a whip. He always washed his hands in an enamel basin in the corner of the room and after he had washed them he would walk over to his desk and stand behind it looking at the pupils while he dried them on a small, white towel.

He dried each finger separately, beginning with the first finger. His fingers were long and white and threaded on sinews you could see beneath the skin. He rubbed them briskly without losing the effect of deliberation and as he rubbed them, he looked at us with his eyes.

No one moved while he dried his hands, no one spoke. When he finished he would fold the towel and put it in the desk drawer and then he would smile at us with his teeth and lips.

He terrified me as a tiger would.

* Answer the questions as fully as possible (2-3 lines for each)
* Try to include a quote in each answer
1. How do you get the idea that the description of Mr Tucker was written by a child?

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1. What does the writer mean when he says, “he used them (his eyes) like a whip”?

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1. What is the writer trying to do in this passage? Do you think he is successful? Why?

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1. What kind of teacher do you think Mr Tucker was?

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1. Why do you think the writer describes in so much detail Mr Tucker’s washing of his hands?

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1. Why do you think the writer compares Mr Tucker with a tiger?

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1. In the story Mr Tucker is described in a number of ways. Your task is to present Mr Tucker in the four ways listed below:
	* 1. A cartoon character
		2. An object
		3. A bird
		4. An animal (not a tiger)

**For each you must EXPLAIN in one sentence the choice you have made. You MUST use colour.**

A cartoon character

An object

A bird

An animal (not a tiger)

**SHORT STORY EXERCISE**

1. A creative short story
2. Word limit 150 – 300 words
3. Assessment Criteria

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Descriptor |
| Achieved | * Your ideas make sense and are appropriate for your audience
* You structure your work appropriately (i.e. paragraphs)
* You use writing conventions accurately (e.g. punctuation, spelling, grammar)
 |

**TASK**

You are to choose one thing from each column below and have it in your story.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Movie Star* | *Location* | *Event* |
| Brad PittParis HiltonCuba Gooding Jnr | HawaiiAfricaTexas | Surfing CompetitionCircusShoot-out |

**Please note:**

You may be as creative as you wish but you are not allowed swearing, drug use, sexual content or anything of that nature in your story.

You will immediately fail if you have anything inappropriate in your story.

Name of your story: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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