Strategies for an Excellent Short Story

CHARACTERS

\*Have a protagonist   
(main character who wants something)

\*Have an antagonist (character who’s creating problems)

\*Describe what a character looks like

\*Show characters DOING things

\*Have your characters talking  
\*Include how characters feel

SETTING

\*Include where and when the story takes place

\*Describe what places and things look like

PLOT

\*Have EXPOSTION (introduce the characters and setting)

\*Have RISING ACTION (1-3 conflicts or problems)

\*Have a CLIMAX (biggest & last problem; high point)

\*Have RESOLUTION (problems are solved)

THEME  
What does the character learn about life or him or herself

OTHER

\*Use a mixture of action and description

\*Show things second by second  
\*Use paragraphs to show new ideas

\*New paragraph any time someone different speaks

\*Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation