

Grade 5 English Language Arts  
Week of November 2 – November 6

**Lesson 1: Setting and Character**

**Recipe for a Good Short Story**



You are going to get to cook up your own short story.

Before you get cooking, it is important to know what makes a good story.

The key ingredients are:

Setting

Characters

Conflict

Plot

Theme



**A Note About the Short Story Journal:**

Throughout this unit, you will be asked to add to a Short Story Journal. You will be writing about and making connections to the material covered in this unit.

Aim for at least 5-10 sentences per entry. Use full sentences and practice your best writing skills.



# **Journal #1: Short Story vs. Book**

**Directions:** To start off this unit, you are going to write about whether you think short stories or books are better. Which do you prefer to read and why? Why do you think people write short stories versus books?

## Setting

Setting is the **WHERE** and **WHEN** a story takes place.

**WHERE** can be anywhere on Earth from a deserted island to a dessert factory. A story can also be set in alternate universe or another planet altogether!

**WHEN** can be any time. It can be in the past, present or the future. It can be morning, noon or night. It can be in summer, spring, winter or fall.

Setting is important because it helps you create the story in your mind. If the story takes place in Antarctica, then you will think of snow and cold. If the story takes place in Brazil, then you will think of sun and heat. You get very different images in your mind.

Time is also important. If the story is set in the present you will visualize people dressing, acting and thinking as we do now. You would visualize things differently if the time period was back in the 1920s versus the futuristic 2900s.



Watch this video: <https://youtu.be/RhenaAxGivk>



## Journal #2: Change of Setting!

**Directions:** Imagine you could change your own personal “setting” to be anything you want. What kind of house would you live in? Where would you go to school? Would you live in a magical world if you could? Or would you like to live in the future? Or even another planet? How would changing your setting change your life?

## Characters

Short stories are more concentrated compared to books. Only key characters will be introduced and there are usually just a handful. The important players are a protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the main character and their journey is the focus of the story. The antagonist is often seen as the "villain" because they work against the protagonist.



Watch this video: [https://youtu.be/RXSQh\\_eJfBE](https://youtu.be/RXSQh_eJfBE)



## Journal #3: Best Protagonist Ever!

**Directions:** Think of all the books or movies you have experienced and tell me who you think is the best protagonist ever! Which hero was the one you loved the most? What characteristics made them the best protagonist? Say what book or movie they came from.