Elements of a Short Story

Name:

KEY

Title and Author

Title: What the story is called/the name of the story

Author: Who wrote the story

Setting

Where and when the story takes place
- Broad: world, country, general environment, past, present, future
- Specific: town, building, exact location, decade, year, day

Characters

Who the story is about
The people (or animals or objects that are human-like or "alive")

Plot

What happens in the story
The journey the characters take (literally or figuratively)
Beginning, Middle, End

Conflict

The problem that must be solved
- External: person/person, person/nature, person/technology, an enemy, a character is lost, looking for something
- Internal: person/self, fear, the character doesn't want to do something, lack of confidence

Point of View (POV)

Who is telling the story
First-person: I, me, my
Third-person: He, she, they, it
- Third-person Omniscient: knows everything
- Third person Limited: knows only the POV of the main character in the scene (a single point of view)

Themes

What the story is about
A lesson to be learned
Examples: Love, loyalty, friendship, getting along, doing what's right even when it's hard