

# THE ART OF Shorts

# 3

Enriching Your Writing

Part One

@authorelizabethjsmith

## The 5 Senses

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What does the character

See, Hear, Smell, Taste, & Feel?

Don't need to use all 5 in every scene.

Sight is the most common, but adding a

familiar smell or sound adds depth. It

helps your reader relate to the story.

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## Using Senses Example w/ All 5

Wrapping Kirk's letterman jacket around her shoulders, Susie inhaled his spicy cologne. Crowds cheered as the seniors ran onto the field, but

Susie only had eyes for one.

"Want one?" Jill asked, holding out a salty fry.

"No, thanks," Susie replied. "I couldn't eat a thing."

\*Use 2-3 per scene\*

## Strong Emotions

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Unless your characters are automatons, they show emotions. "Action" emotion often drives short fiction. Think bold outbursts, angry rants, passionate pleas, love's sacrifice, and jealous rages.

Emotions can also be subtle or internal in short fiction. Think of the brooding hero. What is on his mind? Show it with (quiet) emotion.

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Actions speak louder than words.

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What your characters DO moves the story forward unless the piece is ABOUT a character's thoughts.

In my opinion, action is more interesting to read.

Why? It is fine for a character to contemplate a topic, but if they never come to a conclusion...

which usually leads to an action/change in their lifestyle...nothing really happens in the story.

## Simplicity

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Don't overcomplicate. Familiar words keep explanation minimal. In fantasy,

consider common terms, such as

"Dragon" instead of "Hyvth."

For spice, you could choose

"Wyvern" or "Leviathan" over "Dragon."

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## Exceptions!

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If you're dead-set on "Hyvth" (which I made up) or anything else, use it! Just be prepared to explain what on earth that is through vivid imagery rather than an encyclopedia paragraph.