

THE ART OF Shorts

4

Enriching Your Writing

Part Two

@authorelizabethjsmith

THE ART OF Shorts

@authorelizabethjsmith

Rich Vocabulary

Choose words that convey image and emotion to create an intentional picture.

If a woman is beautiful, she is very pretty, but if she is exquisite, she is above all others.

If a town is large, it's big. If a town is rambling, it's really big and spread out.

Tip: Words that cover multiple meanings lower your word count.

Rich Vocabulary

Write to your intended audience level.

Use special words one or two times.

Look for synonyms.

Make sure your words are appropriate for
the subject.

Use a Thesaurus!

Repeating the same word over and over is repetitive...but varying your words using synonyms repels boredom. Think:

bag, satchel, sack, kit

happy, elated, ecstatic, pleased

scared, afraid, fearful, anxious

Tip: Double-check meaning with a Dictionary!

Relatability

Tropes (familiar story types) are popular because readers know what to expect.

Hero vs. Villian

Forbidden Love

Saving the World

Falling for your best friend

Relatable Characters

Choose recognizable personalities, but you don't have to stereotype. Nerdy Hero & Cowardly Jock are common, but don't forget the Cowardly Nerd and the Heroic Jock!

Give readers a foundation to build on.

"Out of Character"

Give a solid reason for the change, and most readers will accept it.

Ex. A shy girl stands up for her friend because she loves her friend more than she fears being made fun of, not because she suddenly becomes out-going.

Relatable Setting

Give readers a foundation to build on.

A village, a cottage, a beach, Out West,

Historic England, the desert, a high

school, a stable, a castle, a pirate ship...

Use adjectives to add detail: A thatched-
roof cottage surrounded by lush gardens.