

THE ART OF
Shorts

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Impact & Mirroring

@authorelizabethjsmith

Intros, Middles, & Endings

Intros hook a reader.

Endings give the final impression.

The middle is a sensible path from I to E
and shows the trials and how they're
overcome.

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Create an IMPACT by starting off with:

- One word (Homesick) or a phrase
- A question directed at the reader
- Right in the Action - a favorite!!!
- With Speech or in a Conversation ("They're here." or "You are not serious.") - Looking through my FF, I use this a lot!

Other Starters

- A remark about the Status Quo
- A date or location note for setting
- A *Significant* Memory
- A *Significant* Prologue
- A Flash-Forward Action-Peril Scene
- By Significant, I mean that it must
CHANGE THEIR LIFE.

Mirroring (what I call it, anyway)

I love using mirroring in FF, especially. It is beginning and ending a story with a similar rhythm or a similar sentence. Think of it as two bookends. The intro is often a negative emotion, and the ending is often positive, but you can change it up.

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Ex. from my "The Island" FF

Homesick.

The isle of emerald green. A turf fire in winter.

His family's white-washed cottage.

Skin the creamy white of lime. Warm curls
dark as peat. Eyes verdant green.

Finn was home.

Did you catch...?

My use of synonyms, similar ideas, emotion, rich vocab, rhythm, and the "rule of three."

This device is popular and recommended because it reminds the reader where the story started and how much has changed. It can also help the writer to make sure they stayed on track with their story.

Did you accomplish what you set out to do?

Reminder:

While introductions are important, they are only the beginning! You need to put most of your work into the middle and ending of the story. Don't stress over which intro you should use. Do what feels right for your story and keep writing! You can always come back and change it if you decide you prefer something else.

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Not sure what to use? Try this:

Is your story...?

a. Character-driven: Speech/conversation

b. Plot-driven: Action, descriptive

c. Emotion-driven: One word

No wrong answers!