

# Short Story Study Guide

This **generic short story study guide** is adaptable for any story. It's organized for classroom or independent use and works well with AP, ELL, or general literature courses.

## I. Basic Information

- **Title:**
  - **Author:**
  - **Year of Publication:**
  - **Genre/Subgenre:**
  - **Setting (Time & Place):**
  - **Main Characters:**
    - Protagonist:
    - Antagonist:
    - Supporting Characters:
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## II. Plot Summary

**Directions:** Summarize each part of the plot in your own words.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Exposition</b>	Introduces setting, characters, and situation.
<b>Rising Action</b>	Events that build tension and develop conflict.
<b>Climax</b>	The turning point or moment of greatest intensity.
<b>Falling Action</b>	Events that follow the climax and move toward resolution.
<b>Resolution/Denouement</b>	How the story ends and conflicts are resolved.

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## III. Conflict

- **Type(s) of Conflict:**  
(Circle all that apply)
    - Man vs. Man
    - Man vs. Self
    - Man vs. Society
    - Man vs. Nature
    - Man vs. Fate/Technology
  - **Explanation:** Describe how this conflict drives the story.
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## IV. Theme

- **Central Message or Insight:**
  - **Evidence from the Story:** Include 1–2 direct quotes or paraphrases that reveal this theme.
  - **Connection to the Human Experience:** How does this theme relate to real life?
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## V. Point of View

- **Narrative Perspective:**
    - First-person
    - Third-person limited
    - Third-person omniscient
    - Objective/Detached
  - **Effect on Storytelling:** How does this point of view shape readers' understanding of characters or events?
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## VI. Tone and Mood

- **Tone (Author's Attitude):**
  - **Mood (Reader's Feelings):**
  - **Evidence (Word Choice, Imagery, Dialogue):**
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## VII. Character Analysis

### Character Traits Motivation Change or Growth

Protagonist

Antagonist

Supporting

**Direct vs. Indirect Characterization:** Give examples of each.

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## VIII. Literary Devices and Style

Identify and explain how each contributes to meaning or theme:

- Symbolism:

- Imagery:
  - Irony:
  - Foreshadowing:
  - Flashback:
  - Motif or Repetition:
  - Figurative Language (simile, metaphor, personification):
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## IX. Author's Purpose and Context




- **Why did the author write this story?**
  - **What historical, cultural, or biographical influences might be reflected in the text?**
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## X. Reader Response

- **Personal Reaction:** What emotions or thoughts did this story provoke?
  - **Most Memorable Moment:**
  - **Lesson or Takeaway:**
  - **Connection:** Does this story remind you of another text, film, or event?
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## XI. Writing Extension (Optional)

Choose one:

-  **Analytical Paragraph:** Explain how one literary element (theme, symbol, conflict, or character) shapes the story's meaning.
-  **Creative Rewrite:** Retell a key scene from a different character's point of view or in a modern setting.
-  **Discussion Prompt:** Write one open-ended question to spark class discussion.