

Short Story Checklist

1. Have you started in the right place?
2. Is your beginning too slow?
3. Have you established mood?
4. Have you been careful with flashbacks?
5. Have you written about something you know?
6. Have you "dated" your story, which will make it less meaningful in another time period?
7. Have you included unnecessary action?
8. Have you been redundant?
9. Have you included unnecessary characters?
10. Have you kept your characters in character?
11. Have you overworked a word or phrase?
12. Is your dialogue stilted?
13. Are your facts accurate?
14. Have you destroyed your scene or mood?
15. Have you been trite or "cute"?
16. Has the action been consistent?
17. Have you said something that means something?
18. Is your story logical?
19. Has your protagonist solved his own problems?
20. Is it a story or an essay?
21. Is your climax too short?
22. Have you ended your story too soon or too late?
23. Have you been too wordy?
24. Have you written just for yourself?
25. Have you let your reader think? Leave something to his/her imagination.