**Short Story Assignment**

Your assignment is to create a story from beginning to end. Your story should put into practice your knowledge of short story unit lessons. You will meet the minimum criteria by including:

* At least one **round character**, probably the protagonist;
* A well-developed **setting** (stronger stories will develop the story’s **mood**);
* A clearly communicated **conflict** (hint: ask yourself what your character wants and what prevents them from getting it):
* A story with a complex **plot** (refer to the plot line diagram. Ensure you have all the parts. Hint: include a few obstacles in the rising action, or provide a single obstacle with multiple aspects);
* A **theme** communicated indirectly through the events and characters;
* Stronger stories will also attempt to include **literary techniques**, such as **irony, symbolism, suspense**, etc;

This will be a longer piece of writing and should be **edited** for clarity and consistency of ideas and style (strong vocabulary, appropriate voice, effective sentence structure). You should also **proofread** for spelling, typos, grammar, verb tense, and awkward sentence structure.

**Hints:**

* Make characters believable. No one is perfect, nor perfectly evil.
* Feel free to write in any genre, but avoid forcing your reader to ***suspend disbelief*** more than once (don’t force readers to ignore places where you’ve broken the rules of our universe. For example, if you introduce a ghost, don’t set your story in space – it is too distracting.)
* Don’t be afraid to use slang, sentence fragments, carefully considered intentional errors, and other text clues to create a believable story. These are appropriate in fiction writing, even if they are forbidden in essays.
* Don’t try to rush this assignment at the last minute! Get a friend to edit and proofread.

**Marking (Total 18 marks)**

You will be marked according to BC Fiction Writing Performance Standards on a 6 point scale. Criteria will be as follows

**Meeting Criteria (6 marks)**

Does your story include all of the elements from the above criteria list? To what extent?

**Craft (6 marks)**

Does your story use language effectively to engage the reader? Have you attempted to create suspense? Have you used literary devices and techniques to create interest for the audience?

**Polish (6 marks)**

Is your story edited according to the guidelines above? Have you proofread? If you have intentionally broken rules of grammar for style and effect, can you explain the rule you broke?