



Mastering Creative Writing!

Part One: Setting the Scene

Use ambitious figurative language (personification, metaphor, symbolism). Layer the atmosphere, contrast or build tension subtly. Immerse the reader with multi-sensory detail.

Example starter: The sky hung low, a bruised canvas smeared with charcoal clouds, while the bitter air clawed at his skin.

Checklist:

- ✓ Did I describe the setting using at least 3 of the 5 senses?
- ✓ Have I used ambitious figurative language (e.g. metaphor, personification, symbolism)?
- ✓ Have I created a clear atmosphere (e.g. eerie, tense, peaceful)?
- ✓ Have I layered my description -not just what it looks like, but how it feels?
- ✓ Is the setting linked to the mood of my story?

Part Two: Introduce the Character

Reveal inner conflict or hidden motives through subtle action/dialogue. Suggest backstory through what's unsaid.

Example starter: His boots sank into the sodden earth as if the ground itself wanted to claim him. He said nothing, but his clenched fists spoke volumes.

Checklist:

- Have I shown the character's traits through action or subtle clues rather than telling?
- Does my character seem realistic and layered (not a stereotype)?
- Have I hinted at inner conflict or backstory without over-explaining?
- Have I used body language, dialogue, or small actions to build intrigue?

Part Three: Flashback+ The Problem

Use the flashback to echo or foreshadow the main conflict. Create seamless transitions between past and present.

Example starter: The crack of gunfire echoed in his mind, a memory he couldn't silence. The same path, the same dread.

Checklist:

- Is my flashback smoothly integrated into the main narrative (no clunky jump)?
- Does the flashback help explain the character's fear, goal, or flaw?
- Have I introduced the main problem/conflict clearly?
- Does the flashback link symbolically or emotionally to the present setting?

Part Four: Return to Setting (Cyclical Structure)

End where you began but with altered meaning or atmosphere. Create emotional or symbolic closure.

Example starter: The storm still grumbled overhead, but this time, he didn't flinch. The landscape hadn't changed- but he had.

Checklist:

- Have I returned to the setting or image from the start of the story?
- Have I shown how something has changed (character, atmosphere, meaning)?
- Is the ending subtle but powerful , leaving an impact on the reader?
- Have I linked the ending to my theme or character's journey?

Model Story

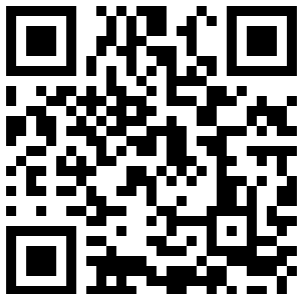
The sky hung low, a bruised canvas smeared with charcoal clouds. The bitter air clawed at his skin as the wind carried the scent of rain and smoke, a warning, or perhaps a memory. The ruined church tower loomed in the distance, its silhouette fractured against the dying light.

His boots sank into the sodden earth, the ground sucking at them with every step as if desperate to keep him there. He drew his coat tighter, but it wasn't the cold he feared. Beneath his breath, he whispered names- names he no longer dared speak aloud.

A crack of gunfire -not now, but then. The flashback was as vivid as the world before him. That night, the sirens had howled, and the ground had shaken beneath their feet. He had run then, too, but not fast enough. Faces blurred by smoke and fear haunted his mind. The same path, the same dread, the same unanswered questions.

The storm still grumbled overhead. The wind still tore at the trees, bending them like broken souls. But now, his gaze was steady, his fists unclenched. The ruined church no longer seemed to accuse him. The landscape hadn't changed, but he had.

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