

## **"Five Things"** **(The Five Elements of the Short Story)**

Check it out yo...

**Setting**, that's like where it's going down,  
Could be the train compartment, a castle or a town,  
Could be the Arctic winter - like To Build a Fire  
The temperature's dropping, excitement is getting higher,  
Setting sets the scene so the scene seems set,  
Could be the Italian restaurant where we met,  
Setting gives us the where and the when,  
Could be modern day, the future, or way back when.

*Plot, Character, Conflict, Theme,  
Setting, yes these are the 5 things  
That you're going to be needing  
When you're reading or writing  
A short story that's mad exciting x2*

**Plot** is the action, the quest for satisfaction,  
What's going down, what's going to happen.  
Four men at sea in an open boat,  
Rowing and hoping that they can stay afloat. The plot:  
They have to make it to the beach,  
But the waves are big, and the shore seems out of reach,  
Plot is a series of events... like Lemoney Snicket,  
It could be crazy, wild or straight wicked.

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Knock knock, who's there? Oh, it's the **characters**,  
The people in the story who carry out the action.  
Characters can be pretty, tiny or clean,  
Characters can be silly, whiney or mean,  
Juliet is a character, and so is Romeo,  
Pokemon has characters and so does Yu-gi-oh,  
Characters could be dogs, lions, or hippos,  
JK Rowling chose Harry Potter. "Why?" Who knows!

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Uh-uh! Put your snack back in your backpack we're not finished!  
Something gone wrong! That's the **conflict** kids  
A struggle in the plot, now who's on top,  
Could be a fight for money, like some robbers and cops,  
Could be an internal conflict - a struggle inside,  
Like I don't want to tell the truth but I don't ever want to lie,  
Flick something in your eye, now you're conflicted,  
What created drama? The conflict did.

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The **theme** of the story is the main idea,  
The central belief or the topic that's in there,  
It's usually something abstract like sacrifice,  
Isolation or resurrection: we're back to life,  
Like don't lie, don't practice libel,  
The theme of To Build a Fire is survival,  
Survival on your own like Fievel Moskowitz  
Flocabulary's something that you HAVE TO GET...

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