

Writing a Historical Fiction Short Story

As we look back on the past, there are many revolutionary moments in history. But, what if you could sit in some whirring, darkened time machine, pull a few levers, and disappear into the past? Historical Fiction can allow you to try to do just that. We will each be writing a historical fiction short story set at any time in history.

(YOUR SHORT STORY MUST BE AT LEAST 2 PAGES)

Good historical fiction will meet the following criteria:

- The story is told well and is historically accurate.
- Characters are realistically portrayed.
- The setting is authentic.
- Historical facts are skillfully woven into the text.

Select a time and place or event with which your historical figure lived. Research the background material for your story:

- What kind of clothes did people wear during the time period you've selected?
- How did they speak to one another?
- What were their surroundings like?
- What were their religious practices, traditions, and primary occupations?

Task # 1: HISTORICAL CHARACTER (Due by Thursday, **January 18th**). *One of the elements that distinguish Historical Fiction is that it may include actual historical figures as characters. Choose one person from history to include in your story. They may be directly involved or just referred to by the fictional characters. Write a one page report on this person and what they were doing that makes them a part of the story you wish to tell.*

Task #2: SETTING (Due by Monday, **January 22nd**). *Write a one page description of your setting. You should describe in as detailed a way as possible the physical and social setting of the story. Include details on areas such as:*

- Description of location
- Clothing
- Jobs
- Social events

PLANNING: After gaining a better understanding of the events and setting of your historical event, begin to plan your short story.

Things to consider as you begin to plan/write are:

- Who are the main characters?
- What is the setting?
- What is the conflict? What kind of conflict is it? Remember, the basic conflict is the core of the story. The historical details are merely dressings we add to spruce up the tale and make it even more realistic.
- Who will narrate the story? A character (1st person), or an outsider (3rd person)?

Task #3: GRAPHIC STORY ORGANIZER (Get Mr. Henley to initial no later than Wednesday, January 24th). *Complete graphic story organizer.*

ONGOING: Write your story and then proofread it AND have someone else proofread it for punctuation, spelling, and grammatical errors. Edit and revise as necessary.

Task #4: ROUGH DRAFT *Putting it all together.* (Get Mr. Henley to initial no later than Friday, **January 26th**). *Write a rough draft of your story. You should use previous TASKS 1, 2 and 3 to help build the story. If you include dialog, be careful to structure it properly and make it time appropriate.*

Task #5: (By Tuesday, **January 30th**). *Get someone (parent, friend or classmate) to edit your rough draft and sign it.)*

Task #6: *Create a final draft to hand in. The final product must include a Title Page (Name, Historical Figure, Class Period), Final Draft, Works Cited page (Sources Used), and a blank copy of the Rubric for my use in grading.*

Put all work in the following order and staple in the upper left corner:

*TITLE Page
Final Draft,
Works Cited Page,
Blank Copy of Rubric*

Final Copy Due by February 2nd

Author Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Historical Fiction Short Story Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Genre Characteristics _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adds a human element to historical facts. - Emotions or situations depicted in the story that we can relate to as human beings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentions some historical facts in passing. - Emotions or situations depicted in the story that we can relate to as human beings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lists historical facts. - Depicts emotions or situations in the story in a manner that others can not really relate to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not include any reference to history. - Does not include any reference to human emotion or situations.
Story Development _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develops main characters through description of actions, appearances, feelings, or dialogue. - Valid main conflict that drives the story. - Developed plot with a beginning, a buildup, a climax, and satisfying ending. - All of the text works towards depicting a theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefly describes the main characters' actions, appearances, and feelings. Little or no dialogue. - Main conflict is evident. - Plot with a complete beginning, middle and satisfying end. - All of the text works towards depicting a theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentions some of the characters' traits, but does not develop them through characterization. - Main conflict is weak. - Plot with a beginning, middle and end. - Most of the text works towards depicting a theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characters are not really believable. - No main conflict to drive the action of the story. - Plot is missing some aspects. - Text is unrelated and/or does not depict a theme.
Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence of much sophisticated and appropriate vocabulary used. - Dialogue is used effectively and is historically accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence of some sophisticated and appropriate vocabulary used. - Dialogue is used effectively, but may not always be historically accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mostly basic vocabulary used. Attempts at using sophisticated vocabulary may be incorrect. - Dialogue may not be used effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic vocabulary is used. No attempts to use sophisticated vocabulary.
Historical Content _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence that the author researched historical facts in the time period. - Naturally embeds accurate historical facts into the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence that the author researched historical facts in the time period. - Historical facts are accurate, but mentioned as after-thoughts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some evidence of historical research, though facts may be inaccurate. - Little or no historical facts are presented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No evidence of research. - No historical facts are presented in any way.
Style _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presents unique information, ideas and viewpoints. - Keeps the reader interested. - Demonstrates the author's personality and voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presents unique information, ideas or viewpoints. - Keeps the reader interested. - Shows traces of the author's personality and voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presents familiar information, ideas or viewpoints. - Gaps in keeping the reader interested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presents typical information, ideas, or viewpoints. - Easily loses the reader's interest.
Mechanics _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sentences are varied and complete. - Spelling is correct. - Subject-Verb agreement. - Verb tense is correct. - Quotation Marks, Commas, and Capitalization are all correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sentences are all complete, though not varied. - Spelling is correct, though there may be a typo. - Subjects and Verbs do not always agree. - Verb tense is correct. - Capitalization and Commas are used correctly, though quotations may not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some sentence fragments or run-ons. - One or two spelling errors. - Subjects and Verbs do not always agree. - Verb tense changes throughout the essay. - Errors in Quotation Marks, Commas and/or Capitalization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many sentence fragments or run-ons. - Spelling errors. - Subjects and Verbs do not always agree. - Verb tense changes throughout the essay. - Errors in Quotation Marks, Commas and/or Capitalization.

Points Subtotal: _____ Additional Comments: 4 On time? +1 = _____

X4= _____ %