



# INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

## SENIOR SECTION

### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

#### CLASS IX

#### WRITING SKILL-STORY WRITING



**Date :**

## STORY WRITING

A short story is a narrative of moderate length that revolves around a single incident involving one or more characters. It usually has a well marked beginning, middle and end. The beginning sets up the action, gives a background of the story or builds a setting in a way that catches reader's attention. The middle develops the action, introduces the element of conflict and arouses reader's interest further. The end is the climax of the entire narrative and brings it to a close, quite often in a totally unexpected manner.

### Elements of A Short Story

**Character:** A character is a person, or sometimes even an animal, who takes part in the action of a short story or other literary work.

**Setting:** The setting of a short story is the time and place in which it happens. Authors often use descriptions of landscape, scenery, buildings, seasons or weather to provide a strong sense of setting.

**Plot:** A plot is a series of events and character actions that relate to the central conflict.

**Conflict:** The conflict is a struggle between two people or things in a short story. The main character is usually on one side of the central conflict.

On the other side, the main character may struggle against another important character, against the forces of nature, against society, or even against something inside him or her (feelings, emotions, illness).

**Theme:** The theme is the central idea or belief in a short story.

### Points to Remember :

1. Have a clear theme. What is the story about? It is the underlying message or statement behind the words. Get this right and your story will have more resonance in the minds of your readers.

2. An effective short story covers a very short time span. It may be one single event that proves pivotal in the life of the character, and that event will illustrate the theme.

3. Don't have too many characters. Each new character will bring a new dimension to the story, and for an effective short story too many diverse dimensions (or directions) will dilute the theme. Have only enough characters to effectively illustrate the theme.

4. Make every word count. There is no room for unnecessary expansion in a short story.

5. Focus. The best stories are the ones that follow a narrow subject line. What is the point of your story? Its point is its theme. It's tempting to digress, but in a 'short story' you have to follow the straight and narrow otherwise you end up with either a novel beginning or a hodgepodge of ideas that add up to nothing.

**SAMPLE :**

**THE TEEN BATIA BHAVAN**

Col .Vishwanathan retired from the Army and bought a house called the Teen Batia Bhavan in the quite town of Hazaria.

Having fought three wars, it made no difference to him that the house was supposedly haunted.

On his first day in the Teen BatiaBhavan, Col. Vishwanathan settled down in an arm chair in front of his T.V suddenly, the lights went off and the room was plunged into darkness.

“Here, Gitten Ram ,” Col. Vishwanathan called to his house-keeper.

“Beware. Don’t shout,” said a hoarse voice.

The Colonel looked up in surprise. Hovering him over the air was a soldier in armour.

“My dear fellow,” said Col. Vishwanathan in a voice filled with admiration , “ I don’t know how you do this levitation. Especially seeing as you are dressed in a fancy dress party.”

The ghost gave a withering cry.

Oh Sir, don’t scream so. I like a bit of peace in the evening,” said the colonel. “Would you like to have a drink with me?”

The ghost screamed again and continued to float walk through walls and doors. The colonel laughed at his antics.

“Sir, I have never been so diverted before. You must entertain my friends too.”

The ghost gave a loud yell and vanished. Col. Vishwanathan shook his head and muttered, “It’s a pity he left in a huff. The others would have been amused by his antics.”

**PRACTICE QUESTIONS :**

i. I awoke one morning and found myself famous..... Write a story in about 120-150 words about the incident.

ii. Write an interesting story, using your imagination and creativity, based on the given outline in about 120-150 words. Give a suitable title.

Dark cold night....car stopped.....abandoned house.....a lady with a dog.....helped push the car....started again....turned to thank the woman.....lady and the big dog, vanished...unbelievable encounter

iii. My heart was filled with excitement to meet my father after a long gap of six years. Having settled in the US, I’d always desired to bring him here but now finally all seemed well. Just another week to go and.....