Short Story Writing Assignment

Task: Write a short story containing as many *literary elements* as possible.

Criteria:
- Your story <u>must</u> contain a **protagonist** and an **antagonist**;
- The **setting** <u>must</u> be clear in the first three paragraphs of the story;
- You <u>must</u> included all the elements of plot: **exposition**, **rising action**, **climax**, **falling action** and **resolution** (you may **<u>not</u>** end your story on a ''cliff-hanger'');
- There <u>must</u> be a mix of **direct** and **indirect characterization**;
- Limit the number of characters to **five**: no more than <u>three</u> **round characters** and <u>two</u> **flat characters**;
- Your story <u>should</u> contain at least <u>one</u> example of **foreshadowing**;
- Your story <u>must</u> contain **suspense**;
- Your story <u>should</u> have a **surprise ending**;
- The **point of view** is optional;
- Your story <u>must</u> contain **dialogue**;
- Be sure to bring your setting and characters to life by using **adjectives**.

Length:
- Grade 7: 800 - 1000 words (three to four pages double-spaced)

Possible genres (types of story):   **Possible themes:**
- Adventure/Action   - Jealousy / Love   - Greed / Selfishness
- Comedy   - Bullying / School   - Lying / Deception
- Romantic   - Determination   - Sports / Competition
- Thriller   - Insecurities / Self-confidence
          - Luck / Superstition

Follow these steps – this is called the <u>writing process</u>:
1. Take **jot notes** – make a **plan** before beginning your writing
2. Write a **rough copy** (*brouillon*) of your story (double-spaced)
3. Edit your rough copy with a friend and by yourself using the dictionary, a thesaurus and online resources
4. Write your final copy (double-spaced)

Assessment & Evaluation:
- You will have to present your story to the class.
- You will receive marks for your cover page, jot notes, rough copy, edited rough copy, and your final copy.
- Mark breakdown:
  - Jot notes (plan): 5% of final grade
  - Rough copy (*brouillon*): 5% of final grade
  - Edited rough copy (corrections): 5% of final grade
  - Cover page: 5% of final grade
  - Final copy: 80% of final grade

Name: _____   Date: _____

Jot Notes (Plan)

Setting (Atmosphere):

Time:

Place:

Character #1 **(Round – Protagonist)** Physical description:	**Character #2** **(Round - Antagonist)** Physical description:	**Character #3** **(Round)** Physical description:	**Character #4** **(Flat)** Physical description:	**Character #5** **(Flat)** Physical description:
Characteristics (Personality):	Characteristics (Personality):	Characteristics (Personality):	Characteristics (Personality):	Characteristics (Personality):

Exposition: Describe how your story begins.

Rising Action (Suspense): Describe the little problems that occur before the major problem of your story.

Climax: Describe the major problem of your story. This should be the most intense part.

Falling Action: Describe what happens after the most intense part of your story.

Resolution: How does your story end? Is it a happy or sad ending? Does every problem get resolved?