

Creative Writing Guide: The Ocean's Heart

1. Write Now, Edit Later

Your internal editor is the enemy of creativity. Don't stop to find the "perfect" word or fix your spelling in the first minute. Just let the ideas flow. There will be time to polish the diamond later; first, you have to get the stone out of the mine.



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2. The Hook (Show, Don't Tell)

Instead of telling us a character is nervous, **make us see it**. Try to make the reader guess the emotion without naming it.



Don't say: "Juan was very scared."



Do say: "Juan's hands were shaking so much that the keys rattled against the lock..."

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3. Create Characters with 'Lights and Shadows'

Flat characters are boring. Nobody is 100% good or 100% evil.



Give them a contradiction: A villain who loves cats, or a hero with an irrational fear of the dark.

Give them a goal: What does the character want in each scene?



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4. Conflict is the Engine

If nothing goes wrong, there is no story. The protagonist must face obstacles, which can be internal (doubts, fears, secrets) or external (the environment, other people).



Internal Conflict 
Doubts, fears,
secrets.

External Conflict 
The environment,
other people.

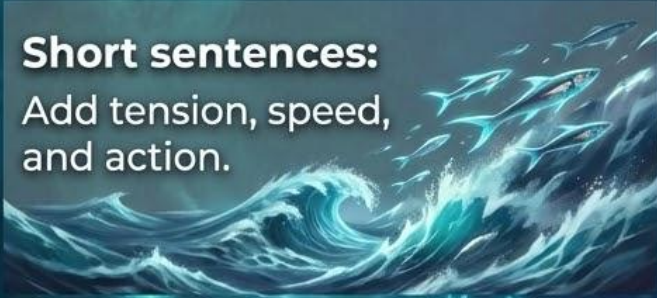


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5. Watch the Rhythm

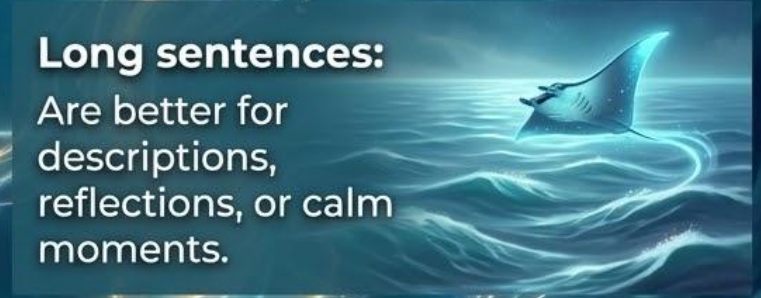
Short sentences:

Add tension, speed, and action.



Long sentences:

Are better for descriptions, reflections, or calm moments.



Pro Tip:

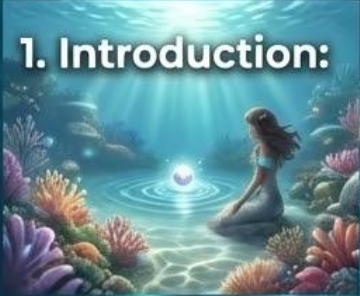
Read your text out loud. If you run out of breath, you need a period (full stop).



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Basic Structure (Don't Get Lost!)

1. Introduction:



Present the character in their routine... and break it with an unexpected event.



2. Rising Action (The Knot):

Things get complicated. The character tries to solve the problem and fails (or it gets worse).



3. Climax:

The moment of maximum tension where everything is decided.



4. Resolution:

How has the character changed after the experience?

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Option A: The Object from the Past (Dystopia)



Context: Year 2080. Sea levels have risen so much that your city is now a network of canals.



The Hook: You find a submerged object that belonged to your grandparents (an empty sunscreen bottle, car keys, a plastic toy).



The Conflict: The object is illegal or represents a world that no longer exists. How do you feel touching something from a time when the sea wasn't a threat?

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Option B: The Voice of the Abyss (Magical Realism)



Context: You are a marine biologist working on a plastic-cleaning platform in the Pacific Gyre.



The Hook: While analyzing a net full of trash, you hear a sound that isn't mechanical or animal. The ocean is trying to tell you something.



The Conflict: Nobody believes you. You must decide whether to follow the coordinates you think you heard.

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Option C: The Reverse Migration (Social Drama)



Context: Your family lives on a Pacific island that is about to disappear underwater. The last evacuation boat leaves tomorrow.



The Hook: You can only take one small backpack. What do you leave behind?



The Conflict: Your grandfather refuses to go. He says he is part of the island and the island is part of him.

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Planning Table (Fill this out first!)

Who is the protagonist?



What is the environmental issue?



What object is key to the story?



How does the scene end?



Who is the protagonist?

(Ex: A diver who is afraid of the water).

What is the environmental issue?

(Ex: Coral bleaching / Microplastics).

What object is key to the story?

(Ex: An old paper map).

How does the scene end?

(Ex: A difficult decision or a revelation).