

# Short Short SF Story

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wgs 410 & 510 / winter 2017 / university of oregon / chang

According to Wikipedia, short short fiction contains “the classic story elements: protagonist, conflict, obstacles or complications, and resolution. However, unlike the case with a traditional short story, the limited word length often forces some of these elements to remain unwritten, that is, hinted at or implied in the written storyline. This principle, taken to the extreme, is illustrated in a possibly apocryphal story about a six-word flash allegedly penned by Ernest Hemingway: ‘For sale: baby shoes, never worn’”

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash\\_fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_fiction)). For this exercise, you will think about all of the speculative and science fiction we have read so far in class as inspiration for your own short short story. Like poetry, short short fiction (sometimes called flash fiction) is all about compression of language, about telling details, and about careful decisions about what to show, to leave out, or leave inferred. You have up to 500 words (only) to develop setting, character, plot, and purpose. What will your story be about? Who will your story be about? How will you build a science fictional world? Choose your words wisely.

## Guidelines and Due Dates

**Format:** 1-2 pages, up to 500 words, typed, double-spaced, no title page, proper heading

**Due:** Tuesday, March 7, at the start of class

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