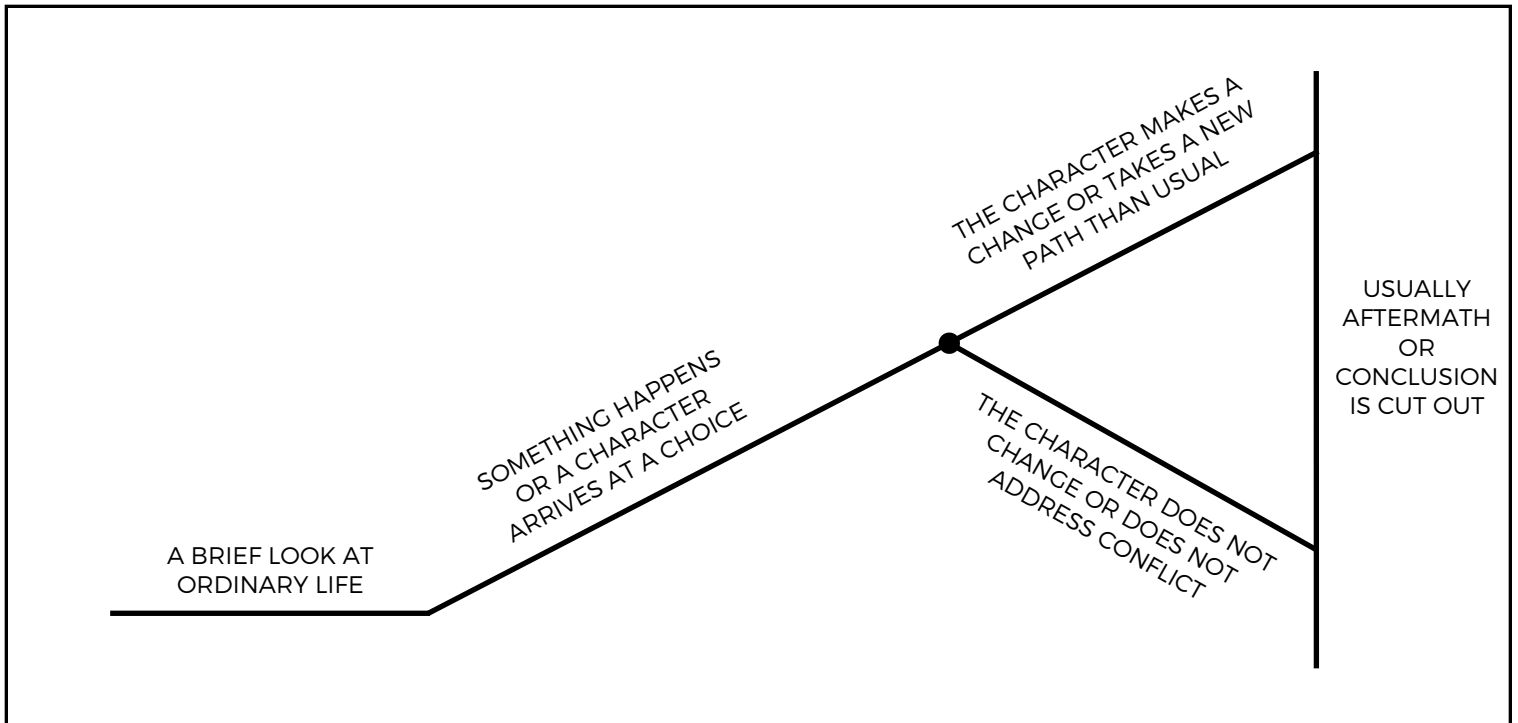


SHORT STORY CHEATSHEET

AN APPROXIMATION OF WHAT MOST SHORT STORIES LOOK LIKE:



As you can see, this is by no means a “real” structure, but it helpful for understanding short stories such as short fiction, short films, or ten-minute plays. It is ideal for writers who need a structure to guide their ideas or are having difficulties understanding how to write short narratives.

OTHER TIPS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE SHORT STORY:

- ➔ It is NOT a novel or film squeezed into a short time period.
- ➔ It is not just Act One
- ➔ It is not just Act Two
- ➔ It is not just Act Three
- ➔ It's a new structure, unlike the others
- ➔ It focuses on character over plot
- ➔ There is usually one conflict, two at most
- ➔ There are usually no more than two to four characters, though the longer the short story, the more flexible this suggestion is
- ➔ If you're having trouble, stick to one location or one scene
- ➔ **JUST GO FOR IT! It's short. So you won't lose much time in trying!**