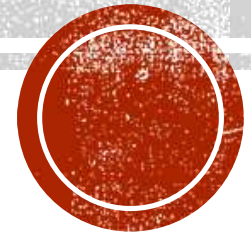


LO: TO IDENTIFY THE FEATURES OF A SHORT STORY



22/6/20

WHAT IS A SHORT STORY?

A short story is exactly that.... A short story!

This means that there is a main character, like there would be in any other story. Sometimes there are also other characters in the story, but you'll know who the main one is because the story is either all about them or told from their point of view. The main character is usually, but not always the protagonist (this is just a fancy word for the 'good guy') who has to resolve a problem or to stop the bad guy, who we call the 'antagonist'.

Read the short story on the next slide and see if you can spot some more features of a short story...





Monster shopping trip

Hairy Henry is a handsome green monster. He lives in a small house in the forest. All his friends live nearby.

Soon it is Hairy Henry's birthday. Loony Lou and Gorgonzola decide to buy him a present.

'What shall we buy him?' they ask.

'What about a camera?'

'No, he's got a camera.'

'How about a big box of chocolates?'

'No.'

'Let's buy him a new pair of shorts.'

'No, he's got some new shorts.'

Loony Lou and Gorgonzola just don't know what to buy him.

'I know!' said Loony Lou. 'Let's go shopping in London. We can visit Hairy Henry's cousin, Big Ben, and ask him what to buy.'

'Good idea!'

So they got the train to London. Big Ben waited for them at the station. 'Hello!' he said. 'We want to buy a present for Hairy Henry,' they told him. 'I know just the place,' said Big Ben, and they went shopping.

First they went into a computer shop. 'Wow! What a lot of computers and games!' said Big Ben, who loves computer games. They bought a very special monster computer game for catching horrible humans. 'Hairy Henry will love it!'

Next they went to a very smart shop called Harrods. They went to the special floor for monsters and looked at the very smart clothes. Everything was monstrously monstrous!

Because Hairy Henry is quite a smart monster, Gorgonzola bought him a tie which lights up and sings a monster 'Happy Birthday' song.

Short story



Finally, they went to an amazing cake shop. They bought the biggest, most monster cake they could find. They put it in a box to take it to Hairy Henry's birthday party.

The next day, Loony Lou, Gorgonzola and Big Ben collected all the presents together and took the train back home. They were so excited about Hairy Henry's birthday party. What a surprise it would be. But then Hairy Henry deserves it, as he is such a nice monster.

Listen to this story <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/monster-shopping-trip>

Contributors Story by Sue Clarke

www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids

© British Council, 2019 The United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.



QUIZ

- Is the story in the first or third person and how do you know?
- Is the story set in the present or past tense, what words tell you this?
- Who is the main character and how do you know?



TASK

- Can you match each of these features with the examples from the short story?

- Protagonist
- Setting
- Main character
- Other characters
- Antagonist

	London
	The monsters are trying to find Hairy Henry a birthday present
	Loony Lou and Gorgonzola
	Hairy Henry
	Loony Lou and Gorgonzola



SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE CHALLENGING INSTEAD? . . .

- Can you identify and find examples of these features from the short story?

Setting	
Antagonist	
Protagonist	
Main character	
Other characters	



EXTENSION

Can you find examples of these linguistic devices?

Dialogue	
Fronted adverbials	
Adjectives	

