Narrative Writing Short Story

Prompt

Write the opening 1–2 pages of a magical realism short story. In your story's opening, be sure to introduce a realistic setting and character(s), introduce a conflict, incorporate at least one magical or supernatural element that is treated as ordinary, and end on a note of intrigue or suspense to leave the reader wanting more.

Use imagery and sensory details to bring your story and characters to life. Remember, magical realism blurs the line between the ordinary and the extraordinary—the magic should feel woven into the fabric of everyday life.

Criteria for Success

- Story opening is between 300–600 words
- Has an engaging opening that starts in the middle of things
- Has a realistic setting and character(s)
- Introduces a conflict for the main character
- Incorporates a magical/supernatural element that is treated as ordinary and helps reveal the conflict
- Ends on a note of intrigue or suspense
- Contains imagery and sensory details that bring the characters and events to life

Narrative Writing Short Story Rubric

Category	Criteria	Fully Meets	Mostly Meets	Partially Meets	Does Not Yet Meet
Organization	• Opens *in medias res,* or in the middle of the action • Uses transitions to move through time, shift locations, and/or mark a change in the character's feelings • Ends on a note of intrigue or suspense to leave the reader wanting more				
Characters and Setting	• Introduces realistic characters • Reveals a realistic setting through details (time and location of the story)				
Conflict	• Introduces at least one main conflict (internal or external) • The conflict reflects a real-world challenge or tension				
Magical/ supernatural element	• Incorporates a magical element into the realistic setting that is treated as ordinary • The magical element helps to reveal the conflict				
Point of View	• Narrative is told from a specific point of view, either first-person, second-person, or third-person person • POV is clear and remains consistent throughout the story				
Details and Imagery	• Uses imagery and sensory details to bring characters and events to life • Dialogue might be used to help bring the scene to life				
Grammar and Mechanics	• Free from grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors				