

# Five Tips for Crafting Flash Fiction

1. When editing your flash story, check that you can identify the 5Cs in your content. Use a highlighter to locate the 5Cs in your story – if this is a struggle, go back to the drawing board and rethink the structure of your story. The 5Cs are as follows:

- Character craves something
- Character cannot have it
- Conflict
- Consequences
- Change

2. As a rule of thumb, your writing should contain no more than 20% of 'to be' verbs. There is a helpful, free online verb analyser that really speeds up the editing process:

<https://www.aztekera.com/tools/tobeverbs.php>

Cut the 'to-be' verbs and replace them with something more meaningful!

3. Using a well-known flash story, change each one of the writer's words for a word of your own, this is an easy way to practise the craft and learn from the best. You can check for plagiarism on DupliChecker: <https://www.duplichecker.com>

4. Take the narrative arc of a well-known fairy tale or myth. Try rewriting it as a flash story by making key changes, such as writing from different characters' perspectives, changing the ending, writing in second person, or moving it into the modern age – or even the future!

5. Have some fun and hone your style by experimenting:

- Start with a fragment/minor sentence of one or two words. Double the number of words in your next sentence. Double them again in the next sentence. Then start working backwards.
- Try writing the whole story using only one sentence – a real challenge.
- Try writing in yoked sentences (sentences that begin with the final word of the preceding sentence).
- Write a flash story in the form of a blog, diary, letter, TV announcement – in fact in any form!
- Replace each noun with the noun that is found seven entries later in the dictionary.