

Some Possible Plots

Hopefully we can create a 500 word short story comparable to Dr Asimov's 'Loint of Paw,' but, of course, we can make sure it will be completely different.

Sum up the Plot in less than forty words; but remember you do not know what will be the personalities of the Characters you will be given, nor the Undercurrents to counterpoint your Plot, nor the final twist because of the 'What If?'

Choose to use no more than four characters, say A, B, C, D, preferably two or three main actors for the richest variations.

In the short story it is usually preferable to avoid defining the plot explicitly, rather to allow it to dawn on the reader in a subtle fashion at least three quarters of the way through the story.

We don't have much time, so please keep it simple. Some suggestions are shown below.

EITHER

1. A, B, and C make the proverbial eternal triangle. Will all survive if there is jealousy or competition for favours? Will there be a happy threesome because they do not compete? Is there an outside influence, D, muddying the waters?

OR

2. A, B, and C have a pecking order rivalry, and one will triumph at the expense of another with the complicity of the third, but who is really the victor? As a distraction clouding

their actions, do they have to satisfy or defer to a higher authority, D?

OR

3. A, B, C, D are opposing couples competing (somehow) for a place to live. How do they do this? Can they reach an agreement? Is there an undercurrent between partners of opposing couples? Do they fight to the death? Do they all lose out to an unknown third party or couple?

OR

4. A is a schemer, a loner pitched against the rest of community, B, C, D, et al. A wants to rule them all. How can A do it in this environment? Is A fighting a losing battle against consensus? Can A persuade them that they are all metaphorically out of step and should be in step with A instead? What makes A better than the rest?

OR

5. Something else, (much better, don't use my hackneyed ideas).