

Reflection Activity & Assessment of Summer Reading: **The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti.**

FENWICK



One Teen Story Creative Writing Project

Creative Writing Project: The emphasis of this project is creativity, interpretation and communication.

One Teen Story Creative Writing Project -- This is an opportunity to experience what it feels like to write a short story and, for those who are interested, submit it for consideration to be published.

This is a reading reflection experience that comes together in the act of writing your own short story. You are being asked to use a specific theme that was brought out in **The Good Thief** (redemption, compassion, identity, disability, or what it truly means to be a family, etc) and write your own short fiction around that theme. Your setting and time period will be colonial Massachusetts between February 1692 and May 1693 when the witch hysteria overtook Salem. The story should have teen (s) as the main character (s) and in some way be about the teen experience. Your word count needs to be at least 1,500 words but no more than 3,000 and you should consider the audience for your fiction story to be young adult (high school age kids).

If you select this as your One Read Project, you can decide to enter your story into the **One Teen Story** Writing Contest later in the school year. That's a good thing but it means you need to up your minimum word count to the magazine's minimum of 2,500 words.

Interested in giving writing a creative short story a try? Read on...

Your efforts begin with reading this summer's One Read, **The Good Thief** by Hannah Tinti. It is recommended that you keep an informal reading journal for yourself to track the way she uses the elements of short story (character, setting, plot, climax, and theme). **The Good Thief** is a fictional story set in 19th Century New England. Start at the **Beginning** of the book, find at least 3 events/ideas that contribute to the **Rising Action** and then identify story elements that lead to the **Ending**. What is the book's **Resolution**? This story has a flow. What in **The Good Thief** interests and moves you?

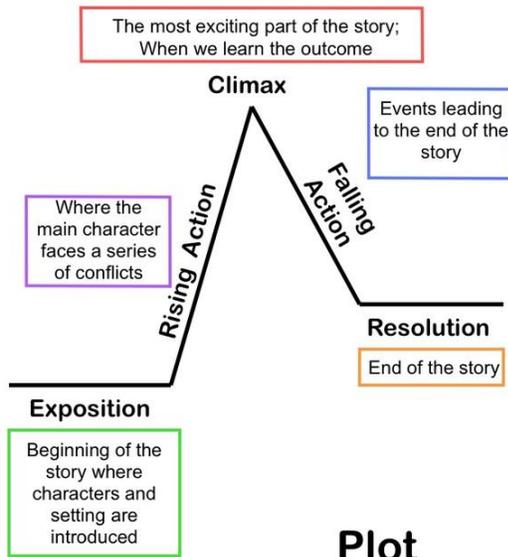
Learn what you can from the experience of reading **The Good Thief**. Its author, Hannah Tinti, is the Co-Founder & Executive Editor of **One Story** and the award-winning author of three works of fiction. You, of course, will write in your own style and voice but considering the works of accomplished authors is a good source of inspiration and helps to keep your writing on track.

Many people write because it's fun, want to say something on the page, seek to entertain themselves and/or their friends etc. and may have no interest in submitting a story for publication. For those who think they might want to submit this project for consideration to be published in Ms. Tinti's online magazine, however, the guidelines for submission are available. **One Teen Story** is an award-winning quarterly literary magazine that features the work of today's best teen writers (ages 13-19). Guidelines for submission are at: <https://www.onestory.com/index.php?page=submit&pubcode=ots>

Please see the FAQ sheet for the **One Teen Story** Creative Writing Project and the rubric for details. For more information, contact Diane Smith, Library Director dms@fenwick.org

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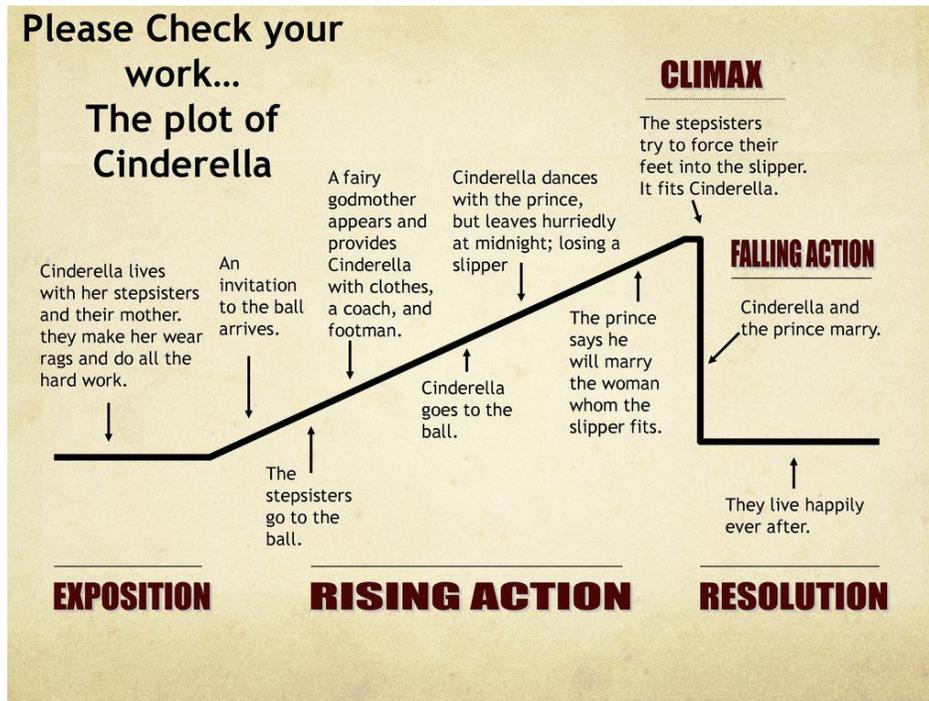
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Plot Diagram

Elements of Story

- Plot**
 - Plot is the action, the quest for satisfaction, What's going down, what's going to happen.
- Setting**
 - Setting gives us the where and the when, Could be modern day, the future, or way back when.
- Character**
 - Knock knock, who's there? Oh, it's the characters, The people in the story who carry out the action.
- Conflict**
 - Flick something in your eye, now you're conflicted, What created drama? The conflict did.
- Theme**
 - The theme of the story is the main idea, The central belief or the topic that's in there.



Remember, you do not have to write for the purpose of submitting your story to One Teen Story or any other publication. Writing is fun. Learning how to creatively express yourself in a piece of fiction can be a very private matter for just you, your friends and the school. It's up to you!

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