Flash fiction

Write a 3-Act Short Story in 30 Minutes (6 + 1 Steps)

**PROMPTS**

Where had everyone gone?

I knew it was dangerous, but . . .

She opened the door and saw . . .

He realized he needed help.

I could not believe my eyes.

How could I have turned into a . . .

1. Brainstorm
   1. Start a timer for 30 minutes.
   2. Choose a prompt. (1 min)
   3. Brainstorm ideas generated by your prompt. Think medium—not too big (World War III, for example)—and not too small (tripping over a curb). But don’t censor yourself! (2 min)
   4. Now, from your ideas, choose your best one. Restate your idea as a problem. (1 min)
2. Plot your story. (3 min)
   1. Beginning: Write the triggering event for your story.
   2. Middle: Write what happens as your main character pursues their goal.
   3. End: Does your character achieve the main goal?
3. Choose a setting and describe it. (1 min)

4. Choose 1 or 2 characters and describe them. (2 min)

5. WRITE! (15 min)

Beginning:

Middle: End: 6. Proofread (3 min)

7. Type your piece up and submit it for publication. You are invited to submit to Philadelphia’s Toho Journal. [www.tohopub.com/toho-journal](http://www.tohopub.com/toho-journal)