Short Story Components Fill-in Form: Key

1 Plot-

1.1 - Exposition: (no action)

    1.1.1 Setting

      a. Time: **In the very olden time**

      b. Place: **A kingdom that has a public arena and a vast amphitheater with its encircling galleries, its mysterious vaults, and its unseen passages**

    1.1.2 Characters

      a. Protagonist: **Princess**

      b. Antagonist: **King**

      c. Character Foil: **Youth**

      d. Minor Character: **Lady**

    1.1.3 Background information: **The king's way of administering justice**

    1.1.4 Potential for conflict: **The love between the princess and one of the king's courtiers: a young man of low station**

1.2 - Rising point: State the point at which the exposition ends and the first action begins; the catalyst that begins the major conflict:

    The king discovered the love affair

1.3 - Complication or Rising events/action: List the series of events that lead to the climax. (Characters engage in conflicts; antagonism is heightened.)

    Event 1: **The king threw the young man in prison and appointed a day for his trial in the arena**

    Event 2: **They brought the most savage and relentless beasts to place behind the first door and a beautiful maiden behind the second**

    Event 3: **The signal was given. A door beneath the royal party opened, and the lover of the princess walked into the arena**

    Event 4: **The princess knew what was behind each door**

    Event 5: **The princess was jealous**

1.4 - Climax: the moment of greatest emotional intensity, the highest point in the story where there is the most suspense, turning point.

    What is this highest point? **The youth opened the door on the right**

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1.5 - Falling events/action: List the events that bring the story to an end.

Event 1: **The author elaborates on the princess's feelings**

1.6 - Resolution/Denouement: the conclusion that includes unraveling of tensions; most questions answered; characters left to deal with consequences of conflicts. (No action)

In one sentence state how the problem gets solved: what is the resolution of the story?

No resolution: the author leaves it up to us to decide

2.   **Point of View**- What type of point of view is used? Justify.

Omniscient > the author tells us about the secret feelings and thoughts of both the youth and princess.

3.   **Tone**- What is the style or manner of expression? List at least 2 adjectives that describe it.
Feelings run very high in this story; dark feelings of hatred, envy, and anguish over lost love dominate the tone of the story.

4.   **Mood**- What is the atmosphere of the story? List at least 2 adjectives that describe it.
The mood or feeling in this story is passionate, tense and full of suspense. There is a chilling and barbaric atmosphere that makes the reader anxious throughout the story. When the princess and the courtier are separated and he must choose the correct door, the mood is tense and full of anticipation. A feeling of dread is present in the reader: what if he chooses the wrong door? Then he will be ripped to pieces.

5.   **Theme**- What is the main topic that the story touches upon?

Justice, love between two people of different social classes, capital punishment, absolute power, jealousy

6.   **Progression of ideas**-
  a-   Do the ideas flow logically?   Yes   No   (circle the correct answer)
  b-   Is the story coherent? Does it make sense?   Yes   No   (circle the correct answer)

If you gave a negative answer to any of the questions in number 3.1.6, suggest some modifications below:

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7.   **Level of interest**- Is the story interesting and captivating? If not, what does it need to become so?

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