**Simple Story Lines for Very Short Stories**

*http://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/creative1/shortstory-ideas/*

*A short story is tight — there is no room for long exposition, there are no subplots to explore, and by the end of the story there should be no loose ends to tie up.  End right at the climax, so that the reader has to imagine how a life-changing event will affect the protagonist (main character).*

*All fiction is about conflict****.*** *Rather than clear-cut battles between good and evil, modern fiction presents flawed protagonists**who must face the consequences of their moral choices. You can end on the decision they make as this makes it a short story.*

* A “good” person is tempted by something (i.e. finds out some private info about someone else). Flashback to why this temptation is important to person. End on decision.
* Character is betrayed – how will they react? – end on their decision
* Story where the person is deciding to do something – it takes a lot of thought about why and what etc – the decision is made for them.
* Description of a posturing army really scary sounding. Turns out they are something small and insignificant and someone steps on them.
* A small lie that gets bigger and bigger
* Choose a contrasting situation: crook becomes responsible