**Example Story Circle Story**

**Comfort zone** - Nicole in boring job (50 words)

* Introduce Nicole and her situation – how long she has been at the job and what the issue is

**They want something** - she quits (Boss is nasty for the last time) (150 words)

* Give an idea about the boss
* Show why she wants to quit so much ie impact on personal life

**Enters unfamiliar situation** - Finds another job (50 words) but **Pays heavy price** - it is also boring (50 words)

* How she got another job – has to be really short
* Nicole’s reaction to new opportunity
* Introduce new place – and the catch
* Reasons she can’t get ahead

**Adapts** - She is resigned for now (50 words)

**Gets what she wants** - a chance comes to prove herself – she succeeds and gets more interesting job (300 words)

* Need to have a reason for her filing to be an advantage
* Case law example misfiled
* Gets her chance to show her skills
* Show her character more

**Familiar situation** – job going ok (50 words)

* Better job is new normal

**Changed** - She learns that all experiences, even bad ones are part of development (50 words)

Planned for 750 words

**Nicole Finds her Feet**

Nicole Stephens was screaming silently in her head. This job was officially a para legal position. She had trained as a para legal, for goodness sakes; she was wasted doing the filing. Six months and still the promised promotion eluded her. The newbie always did the filing; Mr Coggins was too stingy to hire a file clerk.

Just then Mr Potts stalked in, with his pursed mouth and malicious eyes, demanding she find a list of case files for court: “I need them 7:00am Monday. I have to be early in court.” It was already 7:00 Friday night. *Oh no; I’m gonna be here ’til 9:00 unless I come in on a Saturday,* Nicole thought. “…and this week’s boxes of files are in my office – I want them tidied away”. *Make that 12:00,* Nicole silently lamented. *I won’t be home to have tea with Teddy* again.

Something broke inside her. “I quit,” she said. Ignoring Mr Pott’s goggling goldfish eyes, she walked to her desk, grabbed her bag and the photo of her, Teddy and Sebastian the Siamese, and left Potts and Coggins for the last time.

Nicole was fortunate that her Uncle Burton was an influential lawyer so she was only out of work for a few weeks. Her new job was at prestigious Prescott and Prince in the city. Nicole was excited to finally start her role as para legal. *No more filing!* she rejoiced.

Her first day was sunny and the future looked bright. But it wasn’t. “All the para-legal cases are assigned at the moment. You will have to do the filing until a new case comes in,” said Ms Prince. *You’ve got to be kidding*, Nicole thought. *Maybe this is all I’m fit for. Maybe I’m just a loser*.

For the first few weeks, she was resigned, beaten down by filing. None of the lawyers knew her and kept skipping over her when they needed para-legal support. *What am I going to do?* Nicole wailed internally.

It was Cracknell vs Cracknell that gave her her chance. The whole case, as designed by Mr Prescott, relied on a precedence case, Stubbs vs Stubbs, from the archives of Prescott and Prince. It was a cinch to win, since the opposition probably didn’t even know about the Stubbs’s nasty divorce. The problem was, no one could find the file. It seemed to have disappeared. The computer copy had been corrupted and the paper file was gone. The case was coming to trial in a week and suddenly the key to the argument was missing. They would have to get the records from the court, but that would make them look seriously incompetent, since it had been their case.

Nicole was filing as usual. She was putting a file in the Ts. Tr-, Tu-, Tubbard… And what was this: Stubbs?! This was her opportunity to prove herself.

She pulled out the file and started reading. She could see how the argument should work. Out came her trusty sticky notes and highlighters. Evidence. That quote was good. Put it in this order and the argument was even stronger.

She worked on for hours until she was satisfied it would stand up and all the objections had been considered. Now to present it to Mr Prescott.

Her heart was in her mouth as she approached his office. She knocked hesitantly. His blank look did nothing to reassure her. “Excuse me, Mr Prescott. I have found the Stubbs case while I was filing. I took the liberty to do some preparation work. I hope you find it useful. I know the case is coming up really soon.” Mr Prescott looked surprised but pleased. “Thanks, um…”.

“Nicole. Nicole Stephens”, she prompted.

She left the slightly bemused Prescott and, feeling pleased with herself, went to have lunch with a muffin treat as a reward for a job well done.

Apparently, Mr Prescott was impressed with her work. He began requesting her to help him prepare all his cases. She was finally a real, fully fledged para legal as she had trained to be. She had known all along she was good; top of her class in most topics. She had just lost her confidence, that was all. And if it hadn’t been for the filing, she would never have got her break. What was the saying? “You have to kiss a lot of frogs to find your prince”? Well it almost fits and everything worked out in the end.

741 words – 59 words for more description, details, humour etc. Places that could do with something