PUT YOUR CHOICES INTO ACTION!
ELEMENTS OF THE IMAGINATIVE NARRATIVE

Suspenseful Narrative

Characters  Setting  Problem/Situation  Attempts to solve problem or deal with the situation  Solution/Resolution or Closing

Character Survey

If you're struggling with writing a character, write 30 things that the reader will never know about your character. These will naturally bleed into your writing and provide a richness even though you don't share the detail.

Barbara Poelle

Zoom! to a focus

You can't talk about everything in a short story.
PUT YOUR CHOICES INTO ACTION!
ELEMENTS OF THE IMAGINATIVE NARRATIVE

Suspenseful Narrative

Characters
- Samantha Stinson
  - Early/mid 20’s
  - Independent
  - No family left
  - Longish, dirty blonde hair
  - Fair skin and eyes

Setting
- Town of Albus, 2016
  - Cupola of house
  - Town center
  - Graveyard
  - Government based on sameness vs. equality

Problem/Situation
- Finds a journal on the train
  - Samantha is the last of 6 of her kind
  - She doesn’t know who/what she is.

Attempts to solve problem or deal with the situation
- Takes journal home – hides it
  - Nothing written in journal
  - Given a key – doesn’t know why
  - Discovers box w/lock on it
  - Finds an amethyst ring within the box

Solution/Resolution or Closing
- Discovers that the ring allows her to see the writing in the journal
- Learns the truth about her past
- Finds her grave 100 years ago

“I try to create sympathy for my characters, then turn the monsters loose.”
- Stephen King