The tension between clarity and obscurity is fundamental to the art of the short story.

A short story is art and not just a sequence of events. One of the fundamentals of short story writing is clarity. Since the story is short it is necessary to clearly define the mood or feeling the story is bringing before to let the reader know what is coming ahead. It can be a genre like humor, romance or horror, an idea or an emotion, or a combination of these.

In the short story ‘Casa Tomada: House taken over’, when Julio wrote “Irene and I became used to persisting alone in it, which was a fortune as in that house eight people could live there without getting in each other’s way.” he defined the mood of loneliness in the very beginning letting us paint a picture of the scene and have an immersive reading experience where we can imagine a big house countryside with no people around and makes us curious about the structure of the house and what these lonely people must be doing in such a big house to entertain themselves.

Julio later described every detail in the structure of the house after saying “How I do not remember the distribution of the house.” With all the well-described elements, how do we call it a story and not just a sequence of events? Depriving us with that bit of information on which the whole story is built so that we keep on reading and trying to find what has been kept away from us, building multiple plots in our head and pushing our creativity. When Julian told Irene:

“I had to close the corridor door. They have taken over the back part.” we wanted to know who “they” were, in every following sentence we wanted to know who “they” were and we were captured in the story.

Similarly, the very famous story ‘Hills like white elephants’ by Ernest Hemingway is an excellent example of the presence of clarity and obscurity. The initial lines define the mood to be joyous and peaceful. When the girl says "They look like white elephants," It hints that the girl might have different thoughts in her head from the reader, and this is the point where the obscurity starts, without the reader completely realizing it at this moment.

When the man suddenly says, "It's really an awfully simple operation, Jig", the reader realizes the obscurity in the story and is thus completely immersed in the story to find out what the operation is all about.

Also just like the previous story, only one major detail was hidden, which did not create chaos in the storyline. It was also left open-ended for the readers, where they can use their creativity to figure out how exactly the girl was feeling. Not having a definite closure also makes the story more memorable.

Thus by carefully maintaining the tension between the clarity of events and obscurity of data, Julio and Ernest Hemingway gave us an artistic story.