**Literature** may be classified according to variety of systems, including language, national origin, historical period, genre, and subject matter.

**Genre:** This is a French word meaning ‘kind’ or ‘sort’. It refers to a distinctive type or category of literary composition such as the epic, tragedy, comedy, novel, short story.

**Stories** are interactive events. They provide entertainment and can be a source of knowledge, teaching, and training. To an engineer, story reading and writing would help learn narration, description, organisation of ideas and develop creative and critical thinking.

In short, it is an effective tool to develop communication skills. Primarily speaking, a story is a narrative and involves a narrator and narrations. To be good at storytelling and to develop a good story, one needs to understand the following aspects:

**Various Traits of a Short Story**

* A story **talks about an event / incident which can be real or imaginary**. The focus of a story is human beings and their emotions like love, jealousy, hatred, sorrow, happiness, pleasure, pain etc.
* A good story will have **a logical beginning, middle, and end**.Thebeginning gives a problem, the middle elaborates it and the end offers solution. However, all these things should be logically developed and arranged.
* A short story will have only **one or two major characters**. The story, as per the requirement, should describe physical features and highlight one or two emotional and/or intellectual qualities of the characters.
* The story offers **necessary description about the surrounding, the physical location and physical ambience of the story**. This is known as the setting of the story.
* Dialogues are very important in a story. A story would use **dialogues for the introduction of the subject and the character**. Dialogues advance the action and develop the personality of the character.

While writing a story, the writer **shows the things happening instead of telling** them. The writer reveals how a character feels by using the words that shows, smells, tastes, and sounds.

He/she may also use various figures of speech such as similes, metaphors, personifications, etc.

To narrate the story, the writer can **use either first person narration or third person narration**.

**First person Point of View**

A character in the story is the narrator. This character tells the story. The narrator uses the pronouns I, me, we. In the first-person point of view, readers learn about events as the narrator learns about them.

**Third person Point of View**

The story is being told by an outside observer (someone who is not in the story). The author uses the pronouns he, she, and they. In the third person point of view, the author can reveal everything about the thoughts, actions, feelings of the other characters.

Thus, a story is a narrative that is short and aims to please the reader.