

Below is an example of Flash Fiction: a complete story in 250 words.

VIEW FROM WITHIN by KAREN WOLFE

I write in bed while the world sleeps. The bedroom's warm, the lighting dim, the radio a low, comforting burble. I've got an A4 pad, Tippex and the 'space-pen' that writes at any angle....Geoff bought it, to 'help me write a best-seller.'

"Smashing out there," Maxine bustles in and draws the curtains. Sunshine floods the room. The hedge sparkles. The trees are heavy with apples that will rot, unpicked. "One of them last nice days before winter sets in."

I loved winter; long, blowy walks....home, warm and tingly, towelling wet dogs, savouring tea and toast.....but that was then.

"Let's get you sat up," Maxine says. "Scribbling again, were you? They do say everyone's got a book in them." Breakfast and ablutions over, it's District Nurse time. After the injection, she assumes her serious Hospice-talk face. Not yet, but soon, all too soon.

"See you at five." Maxine places the covered dishes on my bed-table, and I'm free to write. The wallpaper's green, and curling at the edges now....Geoff would have seen to that: ever-practical to my 'artistic.' How I love this tatty, familiar haven. How I shall miss it when the time comes.

The sun is low. There's a robin on the hedge: He comes every day, peering in at me with bright eyes....then he's gone in one swift flight, and I'm alone with my imagination....

.....on paper, I can be anyone I like. Young, strong, whole. And in my head, like the robin, I'm flying.