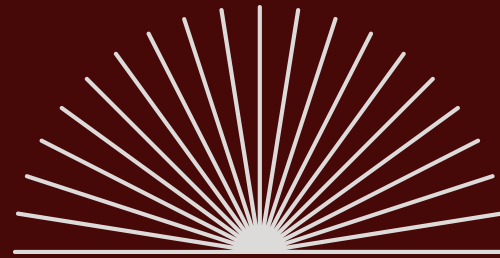


# Workshop



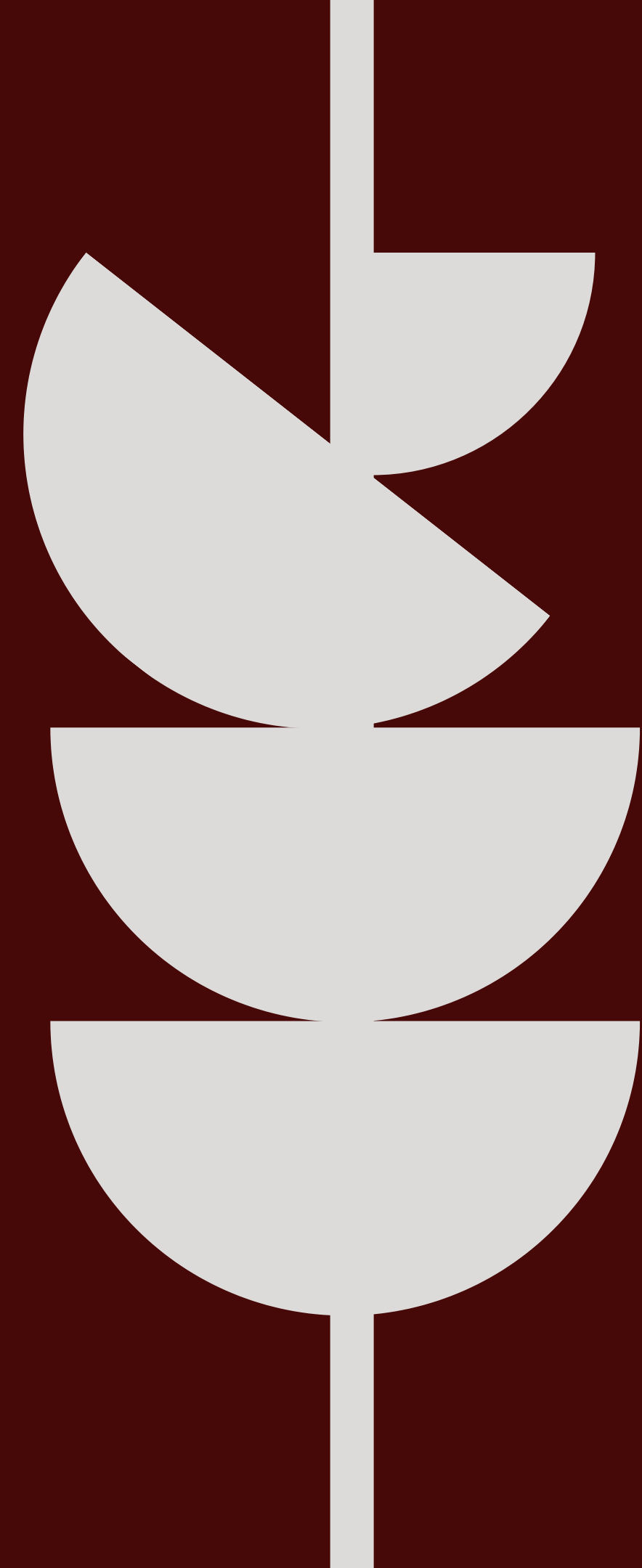
# Summary

## The Art of Microfiction



2passions writing

# What is Microfiction?



## **A matter of wordcount**

Microfiction is a subset of flash fiction and includes all stories of 300 words or less.

## **New-ish & more loose-ish**

Flash fiction and microfiction are still considered new genres. Therefore, rules are looser than for longer works, leaving plenty of space for creativity.

## **A competition's favorite**

Microfiction is increasingly popular in the realm of writing competitions; the limit is often set at 250 words.



Photo by Max Saeling on Unsplash



# The Art of Saving Words



# Be a Strategic Wordsmith

Since you have a maximum of 300 words to convey the entirety of your story, each word should have an intention, so you should choose carefully. This should be your main guiding principle, but other simpler tricks also exist to further shrink your word count.

**Hyphenate if it adds tone or personality**

.....●  
“She gave him a look typical of a know-it-all” vs.  
“She gave him a know-it-all-look” → **-4 words**

**Use contractions in your dialog, it's more natural**

.....●  
“Katie, it is time for lunch.” vs.  
“Katie, it's time for lunch.” → **-1 word & more natural**

**Give your characters names**

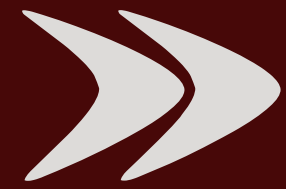
.....●  
“Her best friend waited by the lake” vs.  
“Catherine waited by the lake” → **-1 word, but +1 at first introduction**

# Keep It Short, Shorter than You'd Think



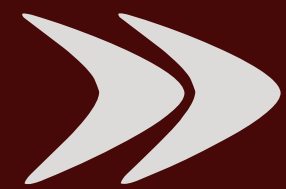
## **Start your story later, later than you'd think**

If drafting longer texts is part of your process, that's fine, but try to limit your first draft to 30-35% more words than the final word-count-goal (e.g. 325-330 words for a final 250-word-product)



## **Use tropes to your advantage**

Tropes are your friend in microfiction, they give the reader helpful hints on the setting and limit the need for descriptions. (i.e. techno babble for sci-fi or space opera, or fantastic beasts and weapons for fantasy) → *steer clear of the clichés though*



## **Explore different POV, maybe one is better suited for short plots**

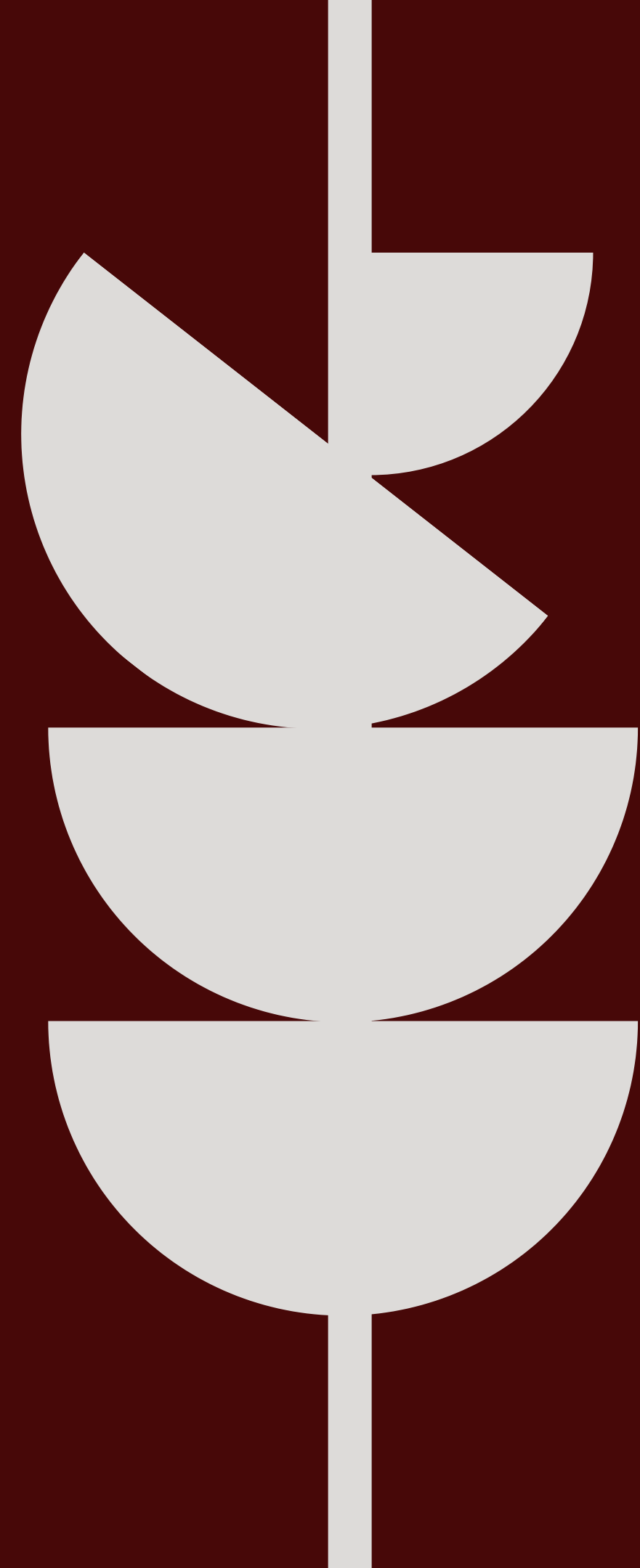
Experiment with first- and third- person perspectives  
Experiment from the other character's perspective



## **Combine similar characters, if needed**

As a rule of thumb, try to keep microfiction to a maximum of two characters

# The Art of Clarity





# Give Words & Space Significance

Microfiction can be a double-edged sword because despite the short word count, you must also create a connection with your reader very quickly. Everything is a matter of balance.

## ● Double Down on Specificity & Senses

**Use specific words  
as much as possible**



“overgrown plants” vs.  
“knee-length ragweeds” → **Still 2 words**

**Call to the senses as  
often as you can**



“It was raining” vs. “Droplets echoed on her umbrella” → **+ 2 words, but more vivid**

# Give Words & Space Significance

## ● Create meaningful space

Line breaks have the ability to guide your reader. Since microfiction is short, do not underestimate what line breaks can do for your story:

- Slow down pace, or
- Build tension or suspense, or
- Allow your reader a breath or a reflection, or
- Underline a turning point in your story

# The Art of Proximity



# Enhance Proximity & Connection

Between your story and your reader

- With a Strong Character Voice

A specific and authentic voice will bring your character alive. Readers are more likely to connect to a unique, but relatable, character. It must feel natural however, not caricatural.

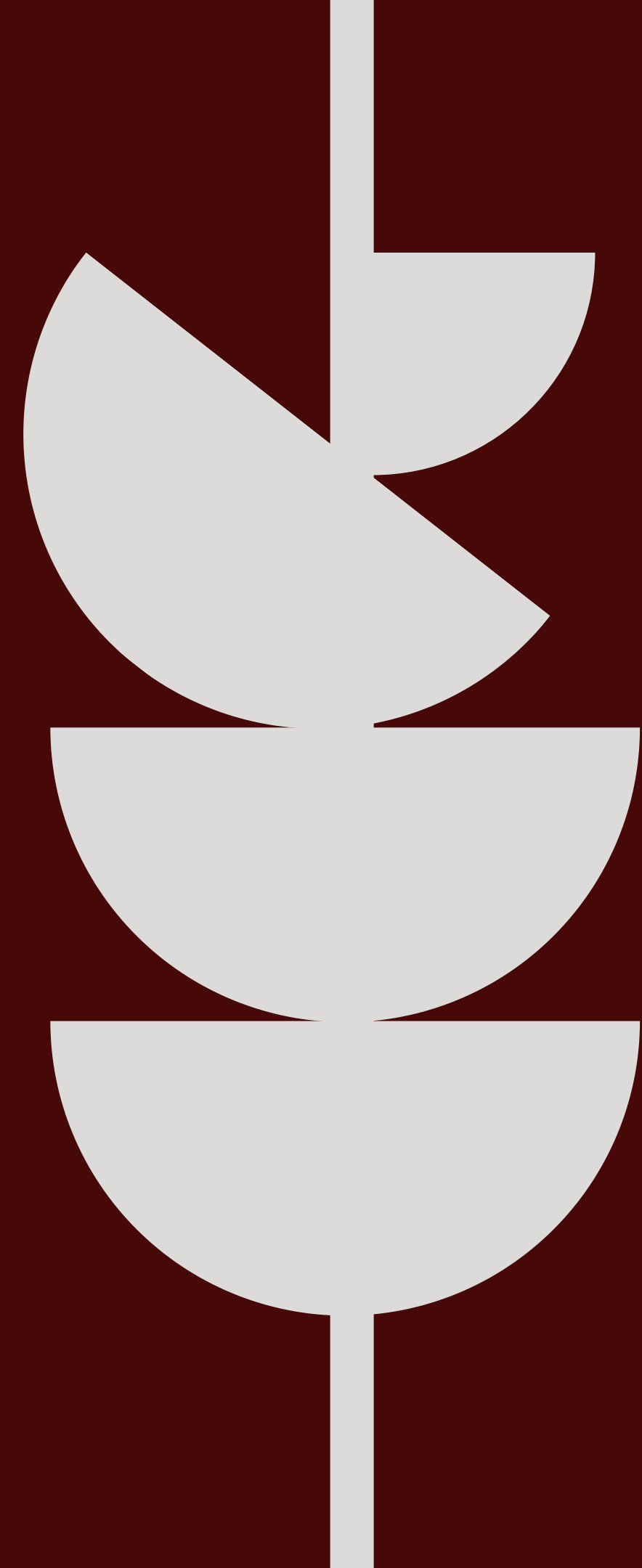
- And Limited Filtering Words

Filter words: “she saw”, “he felt”, “they heard”

→ “He saw the sun rise on the horizon.” - Here, the reader is a narrator

→ “The sun rose on the horizon.” - Here, the reader is the character

# The Art of Twists & Titles



# The Twisty Twist

A twist is fun, but challenging. It must serve the story, but also be planned from the start. The last thing a writer wants is for their reader to feel cheated and unsatisfied.

**A twist is a surprise and an inevitability**

→ If one was to read the story again, they should notice the hints and agree the story lead them to that ending.

# The Underrated Title

Never underestimate the power of a title, especially in microfiction.

→ **It's the first impression:** it has the potential to attract or detract

→ **It can do some heavy lifting:** it can provide a place, a time, and a tone - especially in microfiction, and even more so in competition (titles aren't included in the word limit)