Writing Short Stories

1. Tus maith leath na hoibre! Make a sharp start! Grab your reader by the short and curlies and twist. Make them sit up and need, not want but need to read more.
2. 70% rule. Start your story at the worst possible point for your protagonist and then and only then go back to the start of the chronological plot line.
3. Make your setting as important as any character. Make your place believable. Even if it's sporon65. Make it believable.
4. You have 5 senses, use them all.
5. Be emotive. Allow your characters feel. Let us see inside as well as outside.
6. Show. Don't tell. "He slammed the door" Tells us more than " He was angry"
7. Third person is better than first. It's not how we've been raised and it might seem harder but it's not. It is more mature and it gives you far more scope.
8. Up your vocabulary. Show off where you can. Be as specific as you can.
9. A picture paints a thousand words, a strong written image is probably worth one hundred.
10. After the most important thing happens in your story, get out of Dixie! Don't dawdle at the death of the story. Don't moralise and don't try and tie up untieable ends.