Short story ideas - writing prompts with a focus on: narrative point of view

1) Short story topics - chemical imbalance

Imagine a blind date. The guy thinks it goes wonderfully -- amazing chemistry; they have so much in common. The girl thinks it's a disaster, that he's a real creep.

Write about the date in the first person, from the girl's point of view. E.g., "I met him at the restaurant at seven. He looked..."

Then, write about the same date in the first person, from the guy's point of view.

If you want, you could also rewrite the same scene in the third person, switching back and forth between points of view. Use some kind of indicator so that readers know where the point of view is at all time. Maybe give the man a few paragraphs, then the woman, and use a line break each time you change to separate the story into sections. Don't switch back and forth too fast, or you might leave your reader dizzy and disoriented.

2) Short story topics - the blind woman

Your character is blind. The man she has started dating is not. He invites her to his apartment for the first time. While she is there, she notices various clues that tell her he is probably married. Write this story from the blind woman's point of view. Remember that she cannot see, so you must not use any visual details. Focus on sounds, smells, touch, even taste. This is her first time in her new
Rewrite the story where the blind woman goes to her new boyfriend's apartment, but this time write it from the boyfriend's point of view. The boyfriend is not blind, so you can use visual details. But don't forget about the other senses. The apartment belongs to him, so although he can see it, he is not paying attention to the details in the same way that the woman is. It is all familiar to him. On the other hand, he is paying attention to her. He is attracted to her physically and notices details about how she looks. Make the reader see these details. Also: as the blind woman begins to suspect that he's married, he notices a change in her behavior. He is watching her reactions closely, so show the reader what he sees.

3) Short story topics - wife's denial

Your character's husband is an alcoholic, but your character refuses to realize it. She idealizes him. The couple had a dinner party the night before, and your character's husband got drunk and violent. Your character tells the story of the party in the first person and tries to convince the reader that what happened was no big deal.

4) Short story topics - the thief's defense

Tell the story of a robbery in the first person, from the point of view of the criminal. Have the criminal tell the story as if he were attempting to convince the reader that his actions were justified.
You might then write about the same robbery from the point of view of the victim.

5) Creative writing ideas - the new house

Your character and his wife visit a new house that they're thinking of buying. Your character's wife is enthusiastic about the house, but it's really a terrible place. The character hates it but is afraid to say what he really thinks. Show the scene. But.. do NOT tell the reader that the house is terrible. Do NOT tell the reader that your character hates it. Do NOT have the character tell his true feelings about the wife. Instead, make the reader see and feel it all. And eventually, make the wife see it too.

6) Creative writing ideas - secret love

Two old friends get together for dinner after a long time apart. One of them is secretly in love with the other one. Show this, don't tell it.

7) Creative writing ideas - the grouch

In an emergency, a small boy is left to stay with his grandfather for several days. The grandfather pretends to be annoyed at the inconvenience, but, secretly, he is delighted. He adores the boy. He is embarrassed about displaying emotion, so he acts gruff with the child, who is therefore frightened of him at the beginning of the visit. Show the old man's act, but also let his real feelings show through.
8) Creative writing ideas - the lemon

Your character thinks she's gotten a great deal on something (car, house, vacation package, money-making scheme, new job offer -- you decide). She brags to everyone who will listen about how fabulous this deal is. Meanwhile, little by little, you let the reader see what she's really gotten herself into.

9) Creative writing ideas - the evil roommate

Your character meets her new roommate. She thinks the roommate is nice. The roommate is NOT nice. The roommate is obsessed with power. The roommate wants to control every little detail of the apartment and also wants to control your character's life. Don't tell us any of this. Show it.