Flash Fiction Toolbox

1. **Brevity (Concise and accurate) is Key:**

   - Word Limit: Understand and adhere to the word limit (commonly under 1,000 words, sometimes as few as 100).
   - Conciseness: Every word must count. Use concise language and avoid unnecessary descriptions.

2. **Strong Opening:**

   - Hook Your Reader: Start with a sentence that grabs attention. This could be an intriguing action, dialogue, or image.

3. **Character Development:**

   - Quick Character Sketch: Create characters quickly but memorably. Hint at their personality through actions or a few well-chosen words.

4. **Setting:**

   - Minimalist Descriptions: Suggest a setting without detailed descriptions. Let the reader fill in the blanks.

5. **Plot:**

   - Simple Yet Compelling Plot: Focus on a single, engaging incident or idea. Complex plots are hard to resolve in a short space.
   - Conflict: Introduce a conflict early on. It can be internal (within the character) or external (between characters or with the environment).

6. **Resolution:**

   - Satisfying Conclusion: Even in brief stories, aim for a resolution that leaves the reader feeling satisfied.
   - Twist Endings: Consider a twist or surprise ending for impact, but ensure it's set up properly.

7. **Dialogue:**

   - Economical Dialogue: Use dialogue sparingly and purposefully. It should reveal character or advance the plot.

8. **Show, Don't Tell:**

- Imply More Than You State: Let readers infer the deeper meanings and themes. Show emotions and situations through actions and dialogues rather than explaining them.

9. **Editing:**

- Ruthless Editing: Be prepared to cut out anything that doesn't add to the story, even if you love it.

10. **Creative License:**

- Experiment: Play with perspectives, timelines, or unconventional story structures.
- Voice and Style: Develop a unique voice or style that stands out.

11. **Reading and Inspiration:**

- Read Flash Fiction: Understand the genre by reading a variety of flash fiction stories.
- Gather Ideas: Ideas can come from anywhere - an overheard conversation, a news headline, a photograph, etc.

12. **Practice:**

- Regular Writing: The more you write, the better you get. Write regularly to develop your flash fiction skills.