AY 2026-27 21st English Short Story Writing Prompts

Romance:

We are both terribly inefficient at ending a conversation. We would walk to the footbridge, pause, and talk about the most ordinary things—the taste of cheap apples, a stray cat sleeping on a window ledge—just to trade a few more moments of shared air. Come the time to part ways tonight, however, she didn't mouth the usual goodnight and wriggle her fingers at me. Her eyes fixated far afield, 'someone is asking me out', she mumbled, but distinctly.

Mystery/suspense:

Assigned a new locker at the quiet end of the corridor, I opened it expecting a bare, rusty interior. Taped flat against the metal frame was a small brass key, fitting a lock across campus that contained only another key waiting in the dark.

Horror:

The rent for Flat 8B in North Point was impossibly cheap, which should have warned Yuki. For three nights, she heard someone dragging something heavy across the ceiling at 2:21 a.m. On the fourth night, she decided to confront her neighbour.

Science Fiction:

At midnight, every billboard from Causeway Bay to Tsuen Wan displayed the new Civic Trust rankings. Ah Hei was delighted to find his trust ranking went up 5 points for recycling, reducing his waiting time for his medical appointment from five days to four. Kelvin froze in horror; his ranking went from 821 to zero.