1. What is your theme?

The major theme in this story deals with the human capability to overcome imperfections. In this instance a young woman’s pursuit to defeat her addiction and use her volition to encompass self control. A young man learns the importance of patience, forgiveness, and the desire to obtain more from life than reading about it in books. Both individuals will grow to discover that love is ultimately the cure for their self-generated problems.

2. What is the primary conflict?

The primary conflict is the struggle between the young woman’s alcohol addiction and her new found affection for the young man. I would say this is sort of a combo of woman versus herself scenario with a little bit of man versus woman. Both characters are in a process of self-discovery which is only permitted by the fact that they 1. Like each other 2. Have behavioral traits that need upkeep and 3. Wrestle with an objective of what they earnestly want from themselves, each other, and life in general. Their journey is falling apart while they try to keep everything together. As a consequence they fail initially but succeed long term as they conquer themselves and one other’s hearts.

3. Who/what is the antagonist?

The antagonist is twofold. One part being the young woman’s addiction and another being the young woman’s powerlessness to self discipline (which builds a foundation for the primary conflict.) The influence of drug dependence pushes the young lady further away from the protagonist while he is trying to embrace her in a budding relationship. She is dominated by the urgency to fulfill a supposed need yet understands she cannot live compulsively while maintaining a devoted bond to another human being, much less herself. The young woman is in the process of creating her own future when all the while actually destroying it.

4. What are the key plot points of your story? (The key turning points; the ‘point of no return’)

* A college party girl wakes up hung-over after having passed out on a beach only to find a poem in a bottle which influences the course of the rest of the story..
* Nerdy librarian (young man) meets young girl and begins dating as she inquires of him info about the poem. Meanwhile, a fisherman is tossing bottles with messages into the ocean. (Tragic relief)
* As the two begin to date the young man realizes his girlfriend has a drinking problem.(rising action)
* The young man eventually is fed up and commits the girl to stop her ingestion/party lifestyle to which she agrees. The young woman is soon in her old ways by the young man. (complication)
* The young man breaks up with the girl as she then leaves and puts herself in rehab without him knowing. (Climax)
* He finds it hard to date other people, and in due time discovers it is impossible to move on as he loves her regardless of her addiction.
* The young man begins to search for his ex and finds her finishing her last days in therapy.
* He expresses his love for her and apologizes. She forgives him and they move on. Weeks later the girl shows up at the young man’s doorstep with a smile. (Denouement)
* The young man and girl are seen sailing away on a sailboat. Nearby the same fisherman is at sea and on shore a different young man picks up a bottle out of the sand.