



## A Study of Chronological Development of Short Stories

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Short stories in English with moral values can give reader great inspiration. The short story has comparatively recent development in English literature. In Europe, the oral story-telling tradition began to develop into written stories in the early 14th century with Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron*. At the end of the 16th century, some of the most popular short stories in Europe were the darkly tragic "novella" of Matteo Bandello. Short story is one of the literary genres which introduce an event or a scene including a set number of characters. Short stories have no specific set length. As far as word count is concerned, there is specific limit between short story and a novel. Short story may differ in terms of genres, countries, eras, and commentators. Different definitions put the most extreme word count of the short story at anywhere in the range of 1,000 to 9,000 words.

One of the most punctual short stories in the United States was Charles Brockden Brown's "Somnambulism". Washington Irving wrote baffling stories including "Rip van Winkle" (1819) and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (1820). Nathaniel Hawthorne published the first piece of his *Twice-Told Tales* in the year 1837. Edgar Allan Poe wrote his stories of puzzle and creative energy between 1832 and 1849. Fantastic stories are "The Fall of the House of Usher", "The Tell-Tale Heart", "The Cask of Amontillado", "The Pit and the Pendulum", and the first analyst story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue". In "The Philosophy of Composition" (1846), Poe contended that an artistic work ought to be sufficiently short for a reader to complete in one sitting. In Germany, the first accumulation of short stories was by Heinrich von Kleist in 1810.

In France Prosper Mérimée wrote "Mateo Falcone" in the year 1829. In Russia Alexander Pushkin wrote tales of romantic and mystery including "The Blizzard" (1831) and "The Queen of Spades" (1834). Short stories like Nikolai Gogol's "Nevsky Prospekt" (1835), "The Nose" (1836) and "The Overcoat" (1842) are some of the dark humorous about human misery. In the United Kingdom, Thomas Hardy composed many short stories, including "The



Three Strangers" (1883), "A Mere Interlude" (1885) and "Barbara of the House of Grebe" (1890).

In United States, Herman Melville published collection of his story "The Piazza Tales" in 1856. One year later, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras Country" was the title story of Mark Twain's first book. In 1884, Brander Matthews, the first American Professor dramatic literature published "The Philosophy of Short Story". At that year, Matthews was the first to name the rising kind "short story". He wrote considerable a lot of short stories including "The Real Thing" (1892), "Maud-Evelyn" and The Beast in the Jungle (1903). Kate Chopin published short stories in a few magazines in the decade of 1890.

The most creative French writer of short stories was Guy de Maupassant. Stories like "L'Inutile Beauté" ("The Useless Beauty", 1890) and "Boule de Suif" ("Ball of Fat" 1880) are great examples of French realism. In Russia, Ivan Turgenev gained recognition with his story collection A Sportsman's Sketches. Nikolai Leskov created his first short stories in the 1860s. Late in his life Fyodor Dostoyevski wrote "The Meek One" (1876) and "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man" (1877), two stories with great psychological and philosophical depth.

The most prolific Indian author of short stories was Munshi Premchand, who pioneered the genre in the Hindi-Urdu language writing a substantial body of the short stories and novel in a style characterized by realism and an unsentimental and authentic introspection into the complexities of Indian Society. Premchand's work including his over 200 short stories such as the story "Lottery" and his novel "Godaan" remain substantial works. Rabindranath Tagore with his "The Beggar Woman" (1877) in Bengali language introduced the genre of the short story.

In Poland, Bolesław Prus was the most important author of short stories. In 1888 he wrote "A Legend of Old Egypt" In the United Kingdom, periodicals like The Strand Magazine, The Sketch, Harper's Magazine and Story-Teller contributed to the popularity of the short story. Hector Huger Munro (1870-1916), also known by his pen name of Saki, wrote satirical short stories about Edwardian England. W. Somerset Maugham, who wrote over a hundred short stories, was one of the most popular authors of his time. P. G. Wodehouse published his first collection of comical stories about butler Jeeves in 1917. Lots of detective stories were written by G. K. Chesterton, Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers. Short stories



by Virginia Woolf "Kew Gardens" (1919) and "Solid Objects," are about a politician with mental problems.

In the first half of the 20th century, a number of high-profile American magazines such as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *Scribner's*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Esquire*, and *The Bookman* published short stories in each issue. The demand for quality short stories was so great and the money paid for it was so well that F. Scott Fitzgerald repeatedly turned to short-story writing to pay his numerous debts. His first collection *Flappers and Philosophers* appeared in a book form in 1920. Katherine Mansfield from New Zealand wrote many of her short stories between 1912 and her death in 1923. "The Doll's House" (1922) treats the topic of social inequity. Two important authors of short stories in the German language were Thomas Mann and Franz Kafka. In 1922 the latter wrote "A Hunger Artist", about a man who fasts for several days.

Ryūnosuke Akutagawa (1892-1927) is called the Father of the Japanese short story. *The New Yorker* continued to publish the works of the form's leading mid-century practitioners, including Shirley Jackson, whose story, "The Lottery" published in 1948, elicited the strongest response in the magazine's history to that time. Other frequent contributors during the last 1940s included John Cheever, John Steinbeck, Jean Stafford and Eudora Welty. J. D. Salinger's "Nine Stories" (1953) experimented with point of view and voice, while Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (1955) reinvigorated the Southern Gothic style. Cultural and social identity played a considerable role in much of the short fiction of the 1960s. Philip Roth and Grace Paley cultivated distinctive Jewish-American voices. Tillie Olsen's "I Stand Here Ironing" adopted a consciously feminist perspective. James Baldwin's *Going to Meet the Man* told stories of African-American life. Frank O'Connor's "The Lonely Voice," a classic exploration of the short story, appeared in 1963. The 1970s saw the rise of the post-modern short story, in the work of Donald Barthelme and John Barth.

Stephen King, one of the best selling novelists of all time, initiated his career by publishing numerous short stories in men's magazines of the era (1970s) and stated in an interview with Rich Fahle regarding his short story collection *Just After Sunset* that "The novel is a quagmire that a lot of young writers stumble into."



Many of the American short stories of the 1990s feature magical realism. Among the leading practitioners in this style were Steven Millhauser and Robert Olen Butler. Stuart Dybek gained prominence for his depictions of life in Chicago's Polish neighborhoods and Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" tackled the legacy of the Vietnam War. Louise Erdrich wrote poignantly of Native American life. T. C. Boyle and David Foster Wallace explored the psychology of popular culture. The first years of the 21st century saw the emergence of a new generation of young writers including Jhumpa Lahiri, Karen Russell, Nathan Englander, Kevin Brockmeier, George Saunders, German-American bilingual writer Paul-Henri Campbell and Dan Chaon. Blogs and Ezines joined traditional paper-based literary journals in showcasing the work of emerging authors. Thus the development of short story is multi-concerned and distinctive. Its growth suggests the popularity of this genre.

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