

Learning Objectives

Short Fiction and the Novel

Summary of the Course

In this course, we will examine the history of the short story and novel and read some of the best English and American examples from the 18th to 20th century. Attention will be given to those works that are likely to appear in the AP English exams. In our study of the novel, our focus will be on the Victorian novel, for it was in the 19th century that the novel gained its primacy.

The course will include a series of lectures and discussions on various topics and terms related to the short story and novel, such as point of view, local color, Freytag's pyramid, naturalism, Gothic, regionalism, realism, romanticism, etc. The year will begin with a talk of the genre in terms of its literary form, its origins, and sociological implications. Then, individual works will be discussed in the context of the author's cultural and intellectual milieu as well as the author's biography. If applicable, short stories will be included to accompany the reading of various novels to amplify themes and content of a particular work. Works were carefully chosen for their age appropriateness and literary significance.

Reading

Student will learn to read critically by answer questions in the study guide material that test the student's comprehension of the material. Vocabulary will be gleaned from the works. Student will study the various genres of the short story and get an opportunity to see the development from stories of the oral tradition to modern short stories.

Short Story Works

STORIES OF ORAL TRADITION

The Arabian Nights Edited by Andrew Lang
Selected Fairy Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
The Remarkable Rocket by Oscar Wilde
A Moonlight Fable by H. G. Wells
Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving

STORIES OF ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE

The Witch Doctor Seeks Vengeance by Edgar Rice Burroughs
Balin and Balan by Thomas Malory
The Lady or the Tiger by Frank R. Stockton
A Forest Betrothal by Erckmann-Chatrion

STORIES OF REALISM

A Piece of Bread by François Coppée
The Blind Man by Guy de Maupassant

The Diamond Necklace by Guy de Maupassant
My Uncle Jules by Guy de Maupassant
The Cop and the Anthem by O. Henry
Alyosha the Pot by Leo Tolstoy
The Shot by Alexander Pushkin
The Cook's Wedding by Anton Chekhov
An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge by Ambrose Bierce
A Relation of the Apparition of Mrs. Veal by Daniel Defoe

STORIES OF NATURALISM

The Blue Hotel by Stephen Crane
To Build a Fire by Jack London

SATIRICAL STORIES

Micromegas by Voltaire
The Cloak by Nikolai Gogol

STORIES OF LOCAL COLOR

A Dry Spell by Einar Hjörleifsson Kvaran
On the Divide by Willa Cather
The Outcasts of Poker Flat by Bret Harte

DETECTIVE AND MYSTERY STORIES

Mr. Lismore and the Widow by Wilkie Collins
The Signalman by Charles Dickens
The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb by Arthur Conan Doyle

MORAL TALES, EMBLEMS, AND SYMBOLS

The Father by Björnstjerne Björnson
The Candle by Leo Tolstoy
Her First Ball by Katherine Mansfield
The Egg by Sherwood Anderson
The Bet by Anton Chekhov
The Celestial Railroad by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Wakefield by Nathaniel Hawthorne

THE MODERN PSYCHOLOGICAL SHORT STORY

Araby by James Joyce
The Minister's Black Veil by Nathaniel Hawthorne
An Ideal Family by Katherine Mansfield
Miss Brill by Katherine Mansfield

SCIENCE FICTION STORIES

The New Accelerator by H. G. Wells

The Gun by Philip K. Dick

ART TALKING ABOUT ART

Drowne's Wooden Image by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Artist of the Beautiful by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Vase of Clay by Jean Aicard

The following works will be read for class or student will choose two for independent reading. Student will write a report for the book, analyzing the plot, character development, conflict, point of view and theme. Student will write an critical essay on at least tow of the works.

Sample English Novels

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719)

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* (1740)

Fanny Burney, *Cecilia* (1782)

Jane Austin, *Mansfield Park* (1813)

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)

Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield* (1850)

Anthony Trollope, *The Warden* (1855)

George Eliot, *Silas Marner* (1861)

Thomas Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874)

Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)

Sample American Novels

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *House of the Seven Gables* (1851)

Herman Melville, *Bartleby the Scrivener* (1853)

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952)

Writing

Student will learn the process of writing a critical essay and write at least three critical essays during the year. Students will also write at least two creative works attempting to imitate the character, style and general content of a particular short story genre.

Vocabulary Development

Vocabulary chosen from the short stories and novels will be committed to memory.