








The Short Story Develops

The short story developed as a literary form in the 19th Century as magazines became more popular and widely read, particularly in the United States.

The writers listed below all contributed to the development of the short story as a literary form. These writers are frequently anthologised in collections of short stories.

	Short story writers	Short story collections	Well-known short stories
1.	<p>Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), Scottish</p> <p>Scott's <i>Chronicles of the Canongate</i> is a collection of short stories set in the late 18th Century about Scots who leave their homeland to seek fortunes overseas. </p>	<p><i>Chronicles of the Canongate</i> (1827-28)</p>	<p>The Highland Widow</p> <p>The Two Drovers</p> <p>My Aunt Margaret's Mirror</p>
2.	<p>Washington Irving (1783-1859), American</p> <p><i>The Sketch Book</i> is a collection of American essays and short stories. It became very popular in Europe. </p>	<p><i>The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent</i> (1818-20)</p>	<p>Rip Van Winkle</p> <p>The Spectre Bridegroom</p> <p>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</p>
3.	<p>Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), American</p> <p>Hawthorne's stories are set in colonial America and focus on characters who struggle between forces of good and evil. He is also famous for his novel <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (1850). </p>	<p><i>Twice Told Tales</i> (1837, 1842)</p> <p><i>Mosses from an Old Manse</i> (1846)</p>	<p>The Minister's Black Veil</p> <p>Young Goodman Brown</p> <p>The Birthmark</p>
4.	<p>Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), American</p> <p>Poe wrote poems and essays, but he is best known for his gothic tales of mystery, horror and suspense. </p>	<p><i>Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque</i> (1840)</p> <p><i>Tales of Mystery and Imagination</i> (1911)</p>	<p>The Pit and the Pendulum</p> <p>The Black Cat</p> <p>The Tell-Tale Heart</p>
5.	<p>Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu (1814-1873), Huguenot-born Irish</p> <p>Le Fanu's short story 'Carmilla' was the first vampire story written in English. This story influenced Bram Stoker's novel <i>Dracula</i> (1897). </p>	<p><i>In a Glass Darkly</i> (1872)</p>	<p>Green Tea</p> <p>The Familiar</p> <p>Carmilla</p>

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6.	<p>Herman Melville (1819-1891), American</p> <p>Melville is best known for his novel <i>Moby Dick</i> (1851). He also wrote novellas, short stories and poetry. </p>	<p><i>The Piazza Tales</i> (1856)</p>	<p>Bartleby the Scrivener</p> <p>Benito Cereno</p> <p>The Bell Tower</p>
7.	<p>Mark Twain, aka Samuel Clemens (1835-1910), American</p> <p>In addition to his famous novels, <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> (1874) and <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (1884), Twain wrote a large number of short stories, sketches and essays. He was well known for his humour and wit. </p>	<p><i>The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County</i> (1867)</p> <p><i>Sketches New and Old</i> (1875)</p>	<p>The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County</p> <p>The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg</p> <p>The Stolen White Elephant</p>
8.	<p>Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), British</p> <p>Hardy is best known for his novels, e.g. <i>Tess of the D'urbervilles</i> (1891). He also wrote <i>Wessex Tales</i> (1888), a collection of short stories set in mid-19th Century southwestern England. </p>	<p><i>Wessex Tales</i> (1888)</p> <p><i>Life's Little Ironies</i> (1894, 1927)</p>	<p>The Three Strangers</p> <p>The Withered Arm</p> <p>A Few Crusted Characters</p>
9.	<p>Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?), American</p> <p>Bierce is best known for his short story 'An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge', set during the American Civil War. </p>	<p><i>Tales of Soldiers and Civilians</i> (1891)</p>	<p>An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge</p> <p>Chickamauga</p> <p>The Boarded Window</p>
10.	<p>Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), Scottish</p> <p>Stevenson is best known for his adventure novels, e.g. <i>Treasure Island</i> (1883), and his novella, <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> (1886). <i>The New Arabian Nights</i> (1882) is his most significant collection of short stories. </p>	<p><i>The New Arabian Nights</i> (1882)</p>	<p>The Suicide Club</p> <p>The Rajah's Diamond</p> <p>The Pavilion on the Links</p>
11.	<p>Guy de Maupassant (1850-1893), French</p> <p>De Maupassant's short stories are famous for their economy of style and surprise endings, or 'twists'. He was a major influence on later writers like W. S. Maugham, O. Henry and Saki. </p>	<p><i>The Necklace and Other Tales</i> (2003), edited by Joachim Neugroschel</p>	<p>The Necklace</p> <p>The Inn</p> <p>The Horla (The Entity)</p>

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12.	<p>Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), Irish</p> <p>Wilde is best known for his dramas, e.g. <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (1895). His contribution to the short story includes two collections of modern fairy tales, <i>The Happy Prince and Other Tales</i> and <i>A House of Pomegranates</i>. He also wrote one novel, <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> (1891).</p> 	<p><i>The Happy Prince and Other Tales</i> (1888)</p> <p><i>A House of Pomegranates</i> (1891)</p> <p><i>Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories</i> (1891)</p>	<p>The Happy Prince</p> <p>The Selfish Giant</p> <p>The Canterville Ghost</p>
13.	<p>Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), British</p> <p>Conan Doyle was the creator of the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. His best known Sherlock Holmes novel is <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> (1902). He also wrote several short story collections featuring Holmes and his sidekick Dr. Watson.</p> 	<p><i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> (1892)</p> <p><i>The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes</i> (1894)</p> <p><i>The Return of Sherlock Holmes</i> (1905).</p>	<p>The Red-headed League</p> <p>The Five Orange Pips</p> <p>The Adventure of the Speckled Band</p>
14.	<p>Anton Chekhov (1860-1904), Russian</p> <p>Chekhov's stories have little plot structure. They feature disadvantaged characters who are victims of unpredictable circumstances and the indifferent laws of nature. Chekhov had a major influence on many writers of short stories who came after him.</p> 	<p><i>Anton Chekhov Selected Stories</i> (1960), translated by Ann Dunnigan</p>	<p>Agafya</p> <p>The Kiss</p> <p>An Upheaval</p>
15.	<p>Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), British</p> <p>The tales in <i>The Jungle Book</i> and <i>The Second Jungle Book</i> are modern fables featuring animals as main characters and containing moral lessons. <i>Just So Stories for Little Children</i> is a collection of myths explaining how certain phenomena came about.</p> 	<p><i>The Jungle Book</i> (1894)</p> <p><i>The Second Jungle Book</i> (1895)</p> <p><i>Just So Stories for Little Children</i> (1902)</p>	<p>Mowgli's Brothers</p> <p>Rikki Tikki Tavi</p> <p>How the Camel got his Hump</p>

Many of these stories are available in simplified readers (e.g. Macmillan Readers, Oxford Bookworms Library, Penguin Readers).