






The Late 20th Century


Short stories written in the latter part of the 20th Century often reflect the pressures of modern life and deal with issues that affect society, the family and the individual.

The application of science and technology also becomes a major theme in many short stories written in the years after World War II. The genre of science fiction is popularised by writers like Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov and Ray Bradbury.

The writers in the list that follows are just some of the most frequently anthologised short story writers in the latter part of the 20th Century.

	Short story writers	Short story collections	Well-known short stories
1.	Graham Greene (1904-1991), British 	<i>Nineteen Stories</i> (1947) <i>Twenty-One Stories</i> (1954)	The Basement Room The Hint of an Explanation The Destructors
2.	H. E. Bates (1905-1974), British 	<i>The Daffodil Sky and Other Stories</i> (1955) <i>Seven by Five</i> (1963) <i>The Best of H. E. Bates</i> (1963)	The Daffodil Sky My Uncle Silas
3.	John Cheever (1912-1982), American 	<i>The Enormous Radio and Other Stories</i> (1953) <i>The Stories of John Cheever</i> (1978)	The Enormous Radio Goodbye, My Brother The Swimmer
4.	Roald Dahl (1916-1990), British 	<i>Someone Like You</i> (1953) <i>Kiss Kiss</i> (1959) <i>Tales of the Unexpected</i> (1979)	The Landlady Lamb to the Slaughter Man from the South
5.	Arthur C. Clarke (1917-2008), British 	<i>The Best of Arthur C. Clarke</i> (1973) <i>The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke</i> (2001)	Nine Billion Names of God Rescue Party The Sentinel

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6.	Isaac Asimov (1920-1992), Russian 	<i>Nightfall and Other Stories</i> (1969) <i>The Best of Isaac Asimov</i> (1973)	Nightfall The Last Question I, Robot
7.	Ray Bradbury (1920-), American 	<i>The Stories of Ray Bradbury</i> (1980) <i>Bradbury Stories: 100 of His Most Celebrated Tales</i> (2003)	A Sound of Thunder The Veldt The Fog Horn
8.	William Trevor (1928-), Irish 	<i>Angels at the Ritz and Other Stories</i> (1975) <i>The News from Ireland and Other Stories</i> (1986) <i>Collected Stories, Volumes I and II</i> (2009)	Angels at the Ritz The News from Ireland Faith
9.	Alice Munro (1931-), Canadian 	<i>Lives of Girls and Women</i> (1968) <i>Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage</i> (2001) <i>Runaway</i> (2005)	Lives of Girls and Women The Bear Came Over the Mountain Royal Beatings
10.	John Updike (1932-2009), American 	<i>Pigeon Feathers and Other Stories</i> (1963) <i>The Early Stories: 1953-1975</i> (2003) <i>My Father's Tears and Other Stories</i> (2009)	Pigeon Feathers A & P My Father's Tears

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11.	Joyce Carol Oates (1938-), American 	<i>High Lonesome: New & Selected Stories 1966-2006</i> (2006) <i>Sourland: Stories</i> (2010) <i>Give me Your Heart: Tales of Mystery and Suspense</i> (2011)	How I Contemplated the World from the Detroit House of Correction and Began My Life Smother Babysitter
12.	Raymond Carver (1938-1988), American 	<i>Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?</i> (1976) <i>Cathedral</i> (1984)	Cathedral Chef's House Vitamins
13.	Margaret Atwood (1939-), Canadian 	<i>Dancing Girls and Other Stories</i> (1982) <i>Wilderness Tips</i> (1991) <i>Good Bones and Simple Murders</i> (1994)	Dancing Girls Death by Landscape Simmering
14.	Maeve Binchy (1940-), Irish 	<i>London Transports</i> (1983) <i>Dublin People</i> (1993) <i>This Year It Will Be Different and Other Stories</i> (1996)	Shepherd's Bush Telling Stories A Typical Irish Christmas
15.	Martin Amis (1949-), British 	<i>Einstein's Monsters</i> <i>Heavy Water and Other Stories</i> (1998) <i>Vintage Amis</i> (2004)	The Immortals Denton's Death Heavy Water

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