



# List of Short Stories

Title	Questions/Worksheets	Date Assigned	Completed	Grade Level	Description
Two leaves	yes			3-7	This is a short story taken from Bambi, A Life in the Woods. It is about two leaves having a conversation before the winter. They are gripped with sadness and wonder but find some comfort in one another.
That Spot	Yes			3-7	This is the humorous story of a couple guys chasing after fortune during the Klondike Gold Rush. They acquire a mischievous dog named Spot and just cannot get rid of him.
The Cowardly Lion and the Hungry Tiger	Yes			3-7	From the man who imagined the Land of Oz comes a short story about peer pressure and testing one's morals. Students will like reading about these memorable characters and they should find the ironic outcome to be humorous.
The Fir Tree	Yes			3-7	This story is one of Andersen's lesser known works. Yet, much like his other works, this story delivers a powerful moral. This story is about a personified tree that fails to appreciate his life until it is too late.
The War Sacrifices of Mr. Spugg	Yes			4-8	This short story was written and set during the first World War. It has both humor and sharp social commentary. Readers see that the sacrifices made in the name of war are not equal. Yet the ironic tone of the piece makes it quite enjoyable.
The Cat That Walked by Himself	Yes			4-8	Written in the style of a folktale, this Kipling classic explains the origins of the domestic cat. This fun and cleverly written tale was borrowed from Kipling's Just So Stories. It is a great tale to study when discussing folkloric traits.
The Gift of the Magi	Yes			5-9	This is probably O. Henry's best known work. It is the classic Christmas tale of a young couple who sacrifice their most valued treasures for one another. It is a story that sticks with readers.
The Story of Keesh	Yes			5-9	This is the story of a young man who overcomes fierce and unforgiving opposition. He uses his wits to become the most successful hunter in his tribe's history. It is an uplifting tale with inspirational themes.
The Nightingale and the Rose	Yes			5-9	Written by Oscar Wilde in his signature style of prose (poetic prose), this is a cautionary tale about the hazards of giving someone your all. This tragic tale is densely packed with figurative language and narrative quirks and will surely prove the worthy subject of an interesting classroom discussion.



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The Tell-Tale Heart	Yes			5-9	his is one of Poe's more accessible works. When I teach this text, I tend to play up the insanity of the narrator. It makes for a pretty good hook. This is also a good text to study when discussing the reliability of the narrator. Warning: This text contains a murder and may be unsuitable for some audiences.
The Lottery Ticket	Yes			5-9	A wise man once said, "Mo'money; mo'problems." This Chekhov classic brings those harsh words to life. The story is about a married couple who have a close encounter with a winning lottery ticket. This story helps to remind readers about what's really important in life.
The Ransom of Red Chief	Yes			5-9	This is the classic O. Henry tale of a pair of kidnappers who find themselves at the mercy of their hostage. It's hard to read this one without laughing out loud at least a few times.
Gilray's Flower-Pot	Yes			6-10	An unreliable narrator is not to be trusted but can be quite humorous. This story by Barrie (better known for creating Peter Pan) features an unreliable narrator of the most hilarious sort. You'll have to read this story for yourself to understand my point. But you'll get some giggles out of this one.
2 B R O 2 B	Yes			6-10	This short science fiction story (pronounced "To be or not to be") gives readers a glimpse into a world where people do not age. Whether this world is utopian or dystopian may lead to a worthwhile discussion about what makes life worth living. WARNING: This text contains murder. Please read it first to make sure it is appropriate for your students.
A Mystery of Heroism	Yes			6-10	This is a thoughtful, yet simply written piece set during a battle in the American Civil War. Crane, while capturing the terror and foolishness of war, dispels a heroic myth. WARNING: This text contains graphic descriptions of a violent battle
The Hydrophobic Skunk	Yes			6-10	Anyone who's ever gone on a snipe hunt or been sent to pursue the ever elusive jackalope will appreciate this story. Students will find delight in the humorous tone and plot movement of this text, so much so that they may not even get hung up on the bits of dialect.
Mr. Brisher's Treasure	Yes			6-10	What would you do if you found buried treasure but you weren't allowed to take it? This story explores this common conundrum. Students will love the tense moments and ironic twist at the end if they can get past the storyteller's thick dialect.



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A Respectable Woman	yes			7-11	A houseguest causes tension and excitement in a married woman's home. As with some of Chopin's other texts, this story deals with issues of infidelity, or at least the implications of such; however, if you are working with a mature group of students, this story is worth studying. Still, BE SURE TO READ THIS STORY FIRST BEFORE ASSIGNING IT.
A Piece of Steak	Yes			7-11	This is the tale of a boxer who has come to the twilight of his career. The narrator follows him from his home to the ring, and readers learn about the passage from youth to wisdom. The resolution is unforgettable.
The Son	Yes			7-11	This short story (taken from Hesse's masterpiece Siddhartha) teaches readers about parenting and the limitations of love. The great spiritual questions in this text may fuel a heated discussion in your classroom. I highly recommend reading the whole book, but this text works pretty well by itself too.
Thrown Away	Yes			7-11	It's important to not dwell on your failures too much. This story illustrates that point in a dark and controversial way. WARNING: This text contains a suicide.
Edward Mills and George Benton: A Tale	Yes			8-12	It can be hard to win the game when you play by the rules. This short story displays Twain's biting satire in full bloom.