



50 Great American Short Stories

Milton Crane (Editor), Washington Irving (Contributor), Theodore Dreiser (Contributor), Clarence Day Jr. (Contributor), Nathaniel Hawthorne (Contributor), Sherwood Anderson (Contributor), Jack London (Contributor), William Carlos Williams (Contributor), more... Ring Lardner (Contributor), Conrad Aiken (Contributor), Stephen Vincent Benét (Contributor), Dorothy Parker (Contributor), Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (Contributor), James Thurber (Contributor), John McNulty (Contributor), Robert M. Coates (Contributor), Edgar Allan Poe (Contributor), William Faulkner (Contributor), Ludwig Bemelmans (Contributor), Ernest Hemingway (Contributor), W.E.B. White (Contributor), Oliver La Farge (Contributor), John Collier (Contributor), Sarah Orne Jewett (Contributor), John Steinbeck (Contributor), Kay Boyle (Contributor), Erskine Caldwell (Contributor), William Saroyan (Contributor), Herman Melville (Contributor), Joseph Mitchell (Contributor), William Maxwell (Contributor), Wallace Stegner (Contributor), James Reid Parker (Contributor), James Agee (Contributor), Edith Wharton (Contributor), John Cheever (Contributor), Irwin Shaw (Contributor), Richard P. Russell (Contributor), Seymour Freedgood (Contributor), Carson McCullers (Contributor), Fitz-James O'Brien (Contributor), John Updike (Contributor), Mark Twain (Contributor), Bret Harte (Contributor), Ambrose Bierce (Contributor), O. Henry (Contributor), Henry James (Contributor), George Ade (Contributor), Finley Peter Dunne (Contributor), Stephen Crane (Contributor), Charles M. Flandrau (Contributor) ...less

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A Splendid collection of 50 stories from Washington Irving's 'The Adventures Of A German Student' to John Updike's 'The Lucid Eye in Silver Town'.

Such classic stories as Edgar Allan Poe's 'Ms. Found in a Bottle', Bret Harte's 'The Outcasts of Poker Flat', Sherwood Anderson's 'Death in the Woods', Stephen Vincent Benét's 'By the Waters of Babylon'. Also some little-known masterpieces as Edith Wharton's 'The Dilettante', Finley Peter Dunne's 'Mr. Dooley on the Popularity of Fireman', Charles M. Flandrau's 'A Dead Issue', and James Reid Parker's 'The Archimandrite's Niece'.

There are also splendid offerings from Melville, Henry James, Dreiser, Faulkner, Hemingway, Steinbeck, McCullers, Irwin Shaw, John Cheever and Erskine Caldwell.

50 Great American Short Stories Details

Date : Published March 1965 by Bantam Books (first published March 1st 1963)

ISBN :

Author : Milton Crane (Editor) , Washington Irving (Contributor) , Theodore Dreiser (Contributor) , Clarence Day Jr. (Contributor) , Nathaniel Hawthorne (Contributor) , Sherwood Anderson (Contributor) , Jack London (Contributor) , William Carlos Williams (Contributor) , more... Ring Lardner (Contributor) , Conrad Aiken (Contributor) , Stephen Vincent Benét (Contributor) , Dorothy Parker (Contributor) , Mary E. Wilkins Freeman (Contributor) , James Thurber (Contributor) , John McNulty (Contributor) , Robert M. Coates (Contributor) , Edgar Allan Poe (Contributor) , William Faulkner (Contributor) , Ludwig Bemelmans (Contributor) , Ernest Hemingway (Contributor) , W.E.B. White (Contributor) , Oliver La Farge (Contributor) , John Collier (Contributor) , Sarah Orne Jewett (Contributor) , John Steinbeck (Contributor) , Kay Boyle (Contributor) , Erskine Caldwell (Contributor) , William Saroyan (Contributor) , Herman Melville (Contributor) , Joseph Mitchell (Contributor) , William Maxwell (Contributor) , Wallace Stegner (Contributor) , James Reid Parker (Contributor) , James Agee (Contributor) , Edith Wharton (Contributor) , John Cheever (Contributor) , Irwin Shaw (Contributor) , Richard P. Russell (Contributor) , Seymour Freedgood (Contributor) , Carson McCullers (Contributor) , Fitz-James O'Brien (Contributor) , John Updike (Contributor) , Mark Twain (Contributor) , Bret Harte (Contributor) , Ambrose Bierce (Contributor) , O. Henry (Contributor) , Henry James (Contributor) , George Ade (Contributor) , Finley Peter Dunne (Contributor) , Stephen Crane (Contributor) , Charles M. Flandrau (Contributor) ...less

Format : Paperback 502 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fiction, Anthologies, Classics, Literature

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From Reader Review 50 Great American Short Stories for online ebook

Peace says

This book is fantastic. Not all of the stories were my cup of tea, but it was definitely worth reading for the ones that were, as well as for the chance to sample authors who I had heard a lot about but never read before, such as Steinbeck, Chekhov and Hemingway.

Matthew Turner says

There are a lot of famous authors on this list. However just because something is great literature, doesn't necessarily mean it does it for me. A lot of these stories were hit or miss. Definitely some interesting reads in here, if your not already into this, this is definitely what I would call a expand your horizons type of selection.

Matthew Curtis Cornett says

Most of the stories in this collection are well worth reading; many of them are under-published or under appreciated pieces by well known writers. Some of these are less than memorable, honestly, but since each of the stories in the collection was written prior to 1956, whichever story you choose to read will at least be possessed of a certain amount of charm.

My favorites in the collection: Young Goodman Brown (Nathaniel Hawthorne), The Lost Phoebe (Theodore Dreiser), A Dead Issue (Charles M. Flandrau), Old Folks' Christmas (Ring Lardner), Silent Snow, Secret Snow (Conrad Aiken), By The Waters of Babylon (Stephen Vincent Benét), The Harness (John Steinbeck), and The Touch of Nutmeg Makes It (John Collier).

I won't list the ones I disliked, or why I disliked them (that would take me most of the rest of the night to accomplish), but many of the others were either just *okay*, too didactic or moralistic, trite, or they just fell on their faces instead of ending well. One of them was completely unreadable as it was written in some antiquated Appalachian American dialect.

Pick up a copy. It's very worth it; I got mine for super-cheap (\$4.00).

R.K. Cowles says

3 1/2 stars

Robert Kerlen says

Best collection of short stories you will find. So glad it is still available in print. This is my third copy I bought over the years since my other ones worn out. I wish I could find this book in Hardback or hopefully it will be available in Kindle format.

Sue Bridehead (A Pseudonym) says

A solid mid-century collection. I'm not finished with it yet, but I'll pick it up from time to time to read a story. This was a great companion on a train ride I took earlier this year.

Rex Chen says

I read this book while commuting on subway to work. It's my first encounter with American short stories but it was tremendous fun to read this book! The reading process is intensive and like watching 50 dramas:) Those stories also provide me a great side view to learn the progress and changing of American society, people and values. Some of my favorites are:

1. 'The Fiddler' by Herman Melville -- an inspirational anecdote on the vanity of fame and human desires, and on what is immortal.
2. 'The Lost Phoebe' by Theodore Dreiser -- an very touching story on the loneliness of human being and the search for lost love.
3. 'The National Passtime' by John Cheever -- an intriguing and humorous story of the conflict between a son and his father, and on fear and the conquer of fear ...

Even though I'm from a totally different culture background, I can personally relate to many of the stories, which means that they are of lasting and universal values.

It's also interesting to note the difference in language use between those American writers and the British 'Classical' writers whom I'm more familiar with. American English (in those stories) is very personal, vivid and conversational, but lacks the delicacy and grace of British writers such as George Orwell and Oscar Wilde.

Highly recommended to those who want to learn more about American literature, people and society, but are too busy to read 'real' novels. Also recommended to philosophical minds who wants to 'see a world in a grain of sand':)

Natalie Schneider says

Personal Response: After I read the short story, *A Man of the World* , I thought it was a very unique and different book. I thought the author had an odd choice of plot and character. In result of the oddness, this story kept my attention since I was trying to figure out the details and how they made sense to the storyline.

Plot: Blindy, the main character, was a blind, homeless man who travelled to two different bars playing slot machines. He smelled very bad. In result, he had a hard time getting rides to the bars. One of the bars he went to was called The Pilot. The bartender explained to the other customers on how Blindy became blind. Blindy became blind because of a fight with Willis Sawyer. Willis Sawyer gouged Blindy's eyes out and bit

them off. Blindy explained how he did not like his past nickname, Blackie, because he thought Blindy suited him better than Blackie. The story ended with Blindy pitying Willis Sawyer for not being as fun as himself.

Characterization: Blindy was the main character. He was a blind, homeless man. He also smelled very bad making him not liked by many. He portrayed a careless attitude. He was proud and kind of arrogant when the story behind him being blind was explained. He also did not care that he was homeless, smelled, or was blind. Also, he did not seem to have regret about the fight and seemed content with his life.

Another character was Willis Sawyer. He was a flat character, because he was not heavily explained or described in the story. He was the character that started a fight with Blindy though. Blindy also thought he was not as fun as himself. Willis Sawyer was the one who bit off Blindy's eyes.

Setting: This story took place in the winter at an old bar in Jessup. The time of the year was very important to the storyline because the narrator explained how Blindy came into the bar frozen and had icicles on him. Also, Blindy had to ask for rides to the bars since the roads were very icy and it was cold out. If I had to take a guess on what time period this took place, I would choose in the past. The bar was explained to be a small, old bar. In the past, attending bars on a daily basis was way more common than nowadays.

Recommendation: I would recommend this to any gender of any age above thirteen years of age. I would recommend this story to any gender because the book was gender neutral. I would recommend this short story to that age group because there was some mild violence discussed but nothing too dramatic and inappropriate to anyone older than thirteen year old.

Valerie says

Not enough stories by women.

Sezgi Akcay says

I can't say that I became a fan of all the stories in this book. However it was good to discover some different authors which I did not read before such as Anatole France and Katherine Mansfield. And classics like Alexander Poushkin and Edgar Allan Poe are always goos to read. Nevertheless I can not say this is a light reading book, which one can read on the short bus or train travels.

Özhan Güral says

If you are not like classic stories you mustn't start this book cause I am not like classic stories but i said to myself " at least you should try" and i tried now again i didn't like it but i am not regret some stories learned to me some different information about old america so that was good...

Matthew Conroy says

I really didn't intend to read all these stories. The book sat on my bedside table for the longest time, and I'd

read a story or two when I was in between books, or felt like a break. But now I find I've read all of them.

Quite good. Really good variety. Nice to get some exposure to authors I've not read before.

A nice collection.

Brian says

I have had this book around for a long time and thought I had never read it, but as I read through each story, each one was familiar. I kept thinking I would find one that I hadn't read, but right up to the end, I remembered reading them before. I can't for the life of me remember when it would have been though. there are some really great stories in this collection, and some pretty dull ones, too. A lot of them are ones I've read in anthologies for English classes, too, which made them extra familiar. I liked the last one so much, The Closer by John Collier, that I want to look up more by him. It took me much too long to finish this because I haven't been reading as much as I would like lately.

Daniel says

A comprehensive selection from the owrld's finest short fiction. The authors represented range from Hawthorned, Maupassant, Poe, through Henry James, Conrad, Aldous Huxley, James Joyce, to Hemingway, Katherine Anne Porter, Faulkner, E.B. White...

Bright Spence says

A great way to get introduced to some of the 20th centuries greatest authors and fun stories.
