

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Amir-Ali Nojumian for kindly offering me the opportunity to compile a text for the short story course. I take this opportunity also to thank all my students who are my prime motivation in this profession. I dedicate this book to all of them. Last but not least, I need to thank my family who have always been a source of encouragement and support.

## Preface

Students and teachers of literature have long felt a need for an adequate textbook for the short story course taught to undergraduate students.

Our work as a teacher does not end with teaching in class, we must look ahead and provide students with appropriate reading material. Sensing this need, the present author embarked upon compiling stories from different countries, and thus different cultures to thereby introduce students not merely to a collection of short stories but stories written by well-known novelists. The selected works are stories debatable in class providing students with a comprehensive understanding of short stories, along with a brief but concise knowledge of its writer, which has been given at the start of each story. Last but not least, a reading list has been provided for the readers in case they wish to seek more information about the emergence of the short story and its significance.

The author will be willing to receive constructive and precious views and comments of the readers.

The section on bibliography has been taken from the English and American Norton Anthologies. Some of the sections in the Introduction are compilation from significant texts on the short story.

### Objectives

1) To expose Iranian students to the literature and culture of other nations.

2) To help the students put these works into a historical perspective by the times during which each was written. This course does not intend to be a history course but recognizing that art and literature do not occur in a vacuum.

3) To help the students become aware of certain stylistic techniques used in each of these selections such as the development of character, narrative perspectives, metaphorical language and irony.

### Performance Objectives

1) The students should be able to discuss in detail the major themes present in each of the works presented.

2) To be able to discuss each work in its historical and cultural perspective.

3) Provide examples of certain literary techniques used in each work.

Being a discussion and lecture course, historical background and presentation of artistic trends and stylistic techniques will be given in lecture form. Study questions have been provided to help students for group discussions. Following these discussions, students are then expected to write a short summary of the work inclusive of individual interpretation.

Discussion questions and activities have been prepared for each short story. These questions and activities should serve as a device for evaluating the students understanding of the content of each part.

Appreciation of the written short story is the primary purpose of this book. Therefore, it is important that students have ample opportunity to read, analyze, and discuss short stories. When collections of short stories are reviewed, a good deal of importance is attached to the length of a story: reviewers apportion praise according to whether, and how, the author terminated the story in the right place.