

SHORT FICTION - GREAT AUTHORS

Coordinators: John Becker and Ellen Kolegar

Study Group Description: Great stories come in various sizes. A typical short story focuses on one incident, has a simple plot, and a small number of characters. In this study group, we consider both conventional short stories and longer stories (sometimes called novellas) that are more complex, and have more characters. The selections include contemporary authors (George Saunders, Phil Klay) and classic authors (Isak Dinesen, Herman Melville and Sarah Orne Jewett). The stories demonstrate the extraordinary range of possibilities for themes and modes of expression. We appreciate how great writers can engage our hearts and minds in a range of situations, cultures, time periods and literary styles.

Readings : Coursepack (approximately \$12).

John Becker has coordinated study groups on film, history and literature. **Ellen Kolegar** has coordinated study groups on sociology, Proust, and the stories of Alice Munro and William Trevor.

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Week 1: Saunders - The Semplica Girl Diaries., I Can Speak

Week 2: Dinesen - Babette's Feast

Week 3: Saunders - Victory Lap, Tenth of December

Week 4: Jewett - several stories from "The Country of the Pointed Firs"

Week 5: Klay - Redeployment, Prayer in the Furnace

Week 6: Melville - Billy Budd