



Summer Holiday Reading Challenge

Ten Short Stories to Inspire, Excite and Challenge - all available for free online!

Read them to yourself or aloud to someone at home.

Short Story Number 1:

'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button', by F Scott Fitzgerald. [Read it here.](#)

This short story follows the unusual life of Benjamin Button, who is born an old man and grows *younger* throughout his life.

F Scott Fitzgerald is a very famous American writer. He lived a wealthy and exciting life, and his writing explores the glamour of the jazz age in 1920s USA. His most famous book is 'The Great Gatsby'.



Short Story Number 2:

'Games at Twilight', by Anita Desai. [Read it here.](#)

It's a hot, hot day and Ravi and his friends are playing hide and seek. Ravi is nervous, but finds the perfect spot. Will his efforts lead to triumph?

Anita Desai is an Indian writer who has been writing short stories and novels since the 1960s. She's been nominated for the prestigious Booker Prize three times.



Short Story Number 3:

'The Darkness Out There', by Penelope Lively. [Read it here.](#)

Sandra has volunteered for the Good Neighbours Club: she's been sent with Kerry to help at an old lady's house. It's near the spooky spot of Packer's End, where a German plane fell during WW2. In learning about the past, Sandra learns about the goodness of the people near her.

Penelope Lively writes for both adults and children. Her most famous novel 'Moon Tiger' won the Booker Prize in 1987.



Short Story Number 4:

'The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber', by Ernest Hemingway. [Read it here.](#)

Francis Macomber is an unhappily married man. He goes on safari, determined to kill a lion to impress his wife... But who is the hunter and who is the hunted?

Hemingway is one of America's most celebrated authors. He wrote about masculinity, power and love, and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.



Short Story Number 5:

'The Flowers' by Alice Walker. [Read it here.](#)

This story was written during the Civil Rights Movement in America, when many writers were fighting against racism and discrimination. Myop finds a man murdered violently, and it triggers her change from child to adult.

Alice Walker is a writer and social activist. Her work criticises injustice in society, especially violence against African Americans and women.



Short Story Number 6:

'The Sniper' by Liam O'Flaherty. [Read it here.](#)

Set during the Irish Civil War, this story follows the experience of a gunman trying to shoot the enemy. The ending is powerful and shocking, and reminds us that the horrors of war affect everyone.

Liam O'Flaherty is a famous Irish writer. He was a soldier in World War One and was involved in revolutionary activities in Ireland.



Short Story Number 7:

'A Cup of Tea' by Katherine Mansfield. [Read it here.](#)


Rosemary is rich, outgoing and well-mannered. But she worries about her appearance. So when she brings a homeless girl home to look after, her husband knows just how to get rid of her...

Katherine Mansfield was born in New Zealand but moved to England as a young woman. She died aged 34, having written many popular short stories.




Short Story Number 8:

'Skin' by Roald Dahl. [Read it here.](#)

<p>What happens if you get a tattoo by a world famous artist on your back? Be warned: this story might have a sinister ending...</p>	<p>Roald Dahl needs no introduction: his books, such as 'Matilda', 'The BFG' and 'Boy' have delighted readers all round the world. 'Skin' is taken from his collection of short stories for adults and young people.</p>	
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Short Story Number 9:

'The Tell-Tale Heart' by Edgar Allen Poe. [Read it here.](#)


<p>An unstable narrator commits a terrible crime; he hears a never-ending heart-beat reminding him of his guilt.</p>	<p>Edgar Allen Poe is a famous short story writer and a master of suspense and the gothic genre.</p>	
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Short Story Number 10:

'The Little Mermaid' by Hans Christian Anderson. [Read it here.](#)

<p>The famous story of a mermaid who falls in love with a human. The original story is much sadder than the Disney version.</p>	<p>Hans Christian Anderson is a Danish writer most famous for his world famous fairy tales, including 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'The Snow Queen'.</p>	
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COMPETITION

 <p>WHY READING MATTERS!</p> <p>Gives you <i>an edge in exams</i> - reading speed, understanding, writing fluent answers</p> <p><i>Helps with feelings</i> like anxiety and worry</p> <p>Takes mental effort: the more you do it, the <i>better you get</i></p> <p>Supports <i>all-round wellbeing</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- makes you feel happier- builds confidence- develops concentration	<p>Read the short stories or any novel over the summer holidays. For each story or book read, complete one of the activities and submit it by 5pm on Friday 4th September 2020 to Ms Bosley ebosley@esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk</p> <p>1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes will be awarded shortly after to each year group for effort made to keep up with your reading skills during the summer holidays.</p> <p>GOOD LUCK!</p>
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