

## **A Hashtag List of 50 Short Stories to Read Before Graduation (with links):**

A List Compiled by Jess Woods

English Instructor for Excelsior Classes

1. “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst:  
<http://whs.wsd.wednet.edu/faculty/zobel/documents/TheScarletIbisText.pdf>  
#imagery  
#brothers  
#loss  
#symbolism
2. “The Sniper” by Liam O’Flaherty: <https://www.edco.ie/fileupload/The%20Sniper%20-%20By%20Liam%20O%20Flaherty.pdf>  
#war  
#family  
#irony  
#twist
3. “The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe:  
<https://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Poe/Amontillado.pdf>  
#darkromanticism  
#irony  
#revenge
4. “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry: [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource\\_files/1-the\\_gift\\_of\\_the\\_magi\\_0.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/1-the_gift_of_the_magi_0.pdf)  
#feelgood  
#twist  
#love  
#sacrifice
5. “A Pair of Silk Stockings” by Kate Chopin: <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/PairSilk859.shtml>  
#women  
#motherhood  
#roles
6. “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant: <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/Neck.shtml>  
#irony  
#twist

#vanity

7. "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson:  
[https://sites.middlebury.edu/individualandthesociety/files/2010/09/jackson\\_lottery.pdf](https://sites.middlebury.edu/individualandthesociety/files/2010/09/jackson_lottery.pdf)  
#tradition  
#dystopian  
#symbolism
8. "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor:  
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/goodman.html>  
#goodmen  
#grace  
#internalconflict
9. "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner: [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/wf\\_rose.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/wf_rose.html)  
#southerngothic  
#humannature  
#love
10. "The Open Window" by Saki: <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/OpWin.shtml>  
#humor  
#twist
11. "The Trial for Murder" by Charles Dickens: <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/TriaMurd.shtml>  
#courage  
#humannature  
#suspense
12. "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.: <http://www.tnellen.com/westside/harrison.pdf>  
#dystopian  
#choice  
#equality
13. "The Birthmark" by Nathaniel Hawthorne: <http://www.online-literature.com/hawthorne/125/>  
#darkromanticism  
#imperfections  
#humannature  
#science
14. "To Build a Fire" by Jack London: [https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource\\_files/to-build-a-fire.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/to-build-a-fire.pdf)  
#manvsnature

#survival  
#conflict

15. “Thank You, Ma’am” by Langston Hughes:  
<http://staff.esuhsd.org/danielle/English%20Department%20LVillage/RT/Short%20Stories/Thank%20You,%20Ma%27am.pdf>  
#relationships  
#temptation  
#feelgood  
#lessonlearned
16. “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin: <http://jerrywbrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Short-Story-Collection.pdf>  
#women  
#roles  
#marriage  
#twist
17. “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” by Mark Twain:  
<http://twain.lib.virginia.edu/projects/price/frog.htm>  
#humor  
#tall-tale  
#southern
18. “Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne: <http://www.eldritchpress.org/nh/ygb.html>  
#darkromanticism  
#humannature  
#morality
19. “Expiation” by Edith Wharton: <https://americanliterature.com/author/edith-wharton/short-story/expiation>  
#publishing  
#women  
#humor
20. “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe:  
[https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource\\_files/the\\_tell-tale\\_heart\\_0.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/the_tell-tale_heart_0.pdf)  
#madness  
#murder  
#guilt
21. “A Sound of Thunder” by Ray Bradbury:  
[http://mrjost.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/8/8/12884680/a\\_sound\\_of\\_thunder\\_text.pdf](http://mrjost.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/8/8/12884680/a_sound_of_thunder_text.pdf)  
#imagery

#timetravel

#hunting

22. "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell:

[http://www.dukeofdefinition.com/dangerous\\_game.pdf](http://www.dukeofdefinition.com/dangerous_game.pdf)

#hunting

#humannature

#twist

23. "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman:

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/theliteratureofprescription/exhibitionAssets/digitalDocs/The-Yellow-Wall-Paper.pdf>

#women

#marriage

#irony

#journal

24. "God Sees the Truth but Waits" by Leo Tolstoy:

[http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/english/tolstoy\\_god\\_sees.pdf](http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/english/tolstoy_god_sees.pdf)

#crime

#punishment

#innocence

25. "Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway:

<http://openhighschoolcourses.org/mod/book/tool/print/index.php?id=2942>

#relationships

#tension

#simplisticstyle

26. "Nightfall" by Issac Asimov: <https://sites.uni.edu/morgans/astro/course/nightfall.pdf>

#scifi

#darkness

#civilization

#humannature

27. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber: <http://www.fraumuenster.ch/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/The-Secret-Life-of-Walter-Mitty.pdf>

#daydream

#reality

#relationship

28. "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce:  
<https://americanliterature.com/author/ambrose-bierce/short-story/an-occurrence-at-owl-creek-bridge>  
#death  
#perception  
#suspense
29. "Everyday Use" by Alice Walker:  
<http://www.dunbarhs.org/ourpages/auto/2013/8/29/50829982/2%20Everyday%20Use%20Student%20Text.pdf>  
#heritage  
#africanamerican  
#education
30. "Bartleby the Scrivener" by Herman Melville: <https://americanliterature.com/author/herman-melville/short-story/bartleby-the-scrivener>  
#race  
#charity  
#selfishness
31. "The Magic Shop" by HG Wells: <http://www.online-literature.com/wellshg/10/>  
#scifi  
#good  
#evil  
#perception
32. "A Worn Path" by Eudora Welty: [http://mrgunnar.net/files/\\_A%20Worn%20Path\\_%20Text.pdf](http://mrgunnar.net/files/_A%20Worn%20Path_%20Text.pdf)  
#journey  
#reflection  
#symbolism
33. "The Looking Glass" by Anton Chekhov: <http://www.eldritchpress.org/ac/jr/041.htm>  
#love  
#devotion  
#illness
34. "Berenice Bobs Her Hair" by F. Scott Fitzgerald:  
<http://storyoftheweek.loa.org/2013/05/bernice-bobs-her-hair.html>  
#peerpressure  
#roaring20s  
#revenge

35. "The Stolen White Elephant" by Mark Twain: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3181/3181-h/3181-h.htm>  
#humor  
#sarcasm  
#detectivestory
36. "Like a Winding Sheet" by Ann Petry: <http://www.westga.edu/~sboyd/Boyd%20-%20Petry.pdf>  
#racialetension  
#domesticviolence  
#humannature
37. "Salvation" by Langston Hughes: <http://centerforfiction.org/forwriters/the-model-short-story/quotssalvationquot-by-langston-hughes/>  
#peerpressure  
#salvation  
#internalconflict
38. "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs: <https://americanliterature.com/author/w-w-jacobs/short-story/the-monkeys-paw>  
#horror  
#wishes
39. "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston:  
<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Colleges/College%20of%20Humanities%20and%20Social%20Sciences/EMS/Readings/139.105/Additional/Sweat%20-%20Zora%20Neale%20Hurston.pdf>  
#domesticabuse  
#irony  
#workingclass
40. "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle:  
<http://pinkmonkey.com/dl/library1/book0673.pdf>  
#sherlock  
#mystery  
#murder  
#truth
41. "The Valley of the Spiders" by HG Wells: <http://www.online-literature.com/wellshg/21/>  
#scifi  
#suspense  
#humannature

42. "A Haunted House" by Virginia Woolf: <http://www.flashfictiononline.com/pdf/fpublic0011-a-haunted-house-virginia-woolf.pdf>  
#mood  
#streamofconsciousness  
#death  
#love
43. "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: [http://www.jonescollegeprep.org/ourpages/auto/2014/1/29/42934518/A\\_Very\\_Old\\_Man\\_with\\_Enormous\\_Wings\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.jonescollegeprep.org/ourpages/auto/2014/1/29/42934518/A_Very_Old_Man_with_Enormous_Wings_pdf.pdf)  
#compassion  
#cruelty  
#faith
44. "Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy: [https://www.fa.org/uploaded/US\\_Attachments/SR9Questions.pdf](https://www.fa.org/uploaded/US_Attachments/SR9Questions.pdf)  
#rightchoice  
#parable  
#humannature
45. "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" by F Scott Fitzgerald: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/users/m/morillo/public/fitzgeraldstories1.pdf>  
#wealth  
#cynicism  
#secrets
46. "A Jury of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell: <http://www1.law.umkc.edu/Academic/Spring2011/assignments/MiniTerm/AJuryofHerPeers.pdf>  
#women  
#roles  
#perception
47. "The Fly" by Katherine Mansfield: <https://americanliterature.com/author/katherine-mansfield/short-story/the-fly>  
#symbolism
48. "The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane: <https://americanliterature.com/author/stephen-crane/short-story/the-open-boat>  
#realism  
#shipwreck  
#survival

49. "The Fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe:

[https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource\\_files/the\\_fall\\_of\\_the\\_house\\_of\\_usher.pdf](https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/the_fall_of_the_house_of_usher.pdf)

#mood

#obsession

#humannature

#death

50. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving: [http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-](http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LegSle.shtml)

[stories/UBooks/LegSle.shtml](http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LegSle.shtml)

#internalconflict

#externalconflict

#superstition