

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-45440-8 – GCSE English Literature for AQA Short Story Anthology Student Book
Chris Sutcliffe, Edited by Peter Thomas
Frontmatter
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GCSE English Literature for AQA Short Stories Student Book

Chris Sutcliffe
Series editor: Peter Thomas

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We approve textbooks because we know how important it is for teachers and students to have the right resources to support their teaching and learning. Please note, however, that the publisher is ultimately responsible for the editorial control and quality of this book.

Please note that when teaching the GCSE English Literature (8702) course, you must refer to AQA's specification as your definitive source of information. While this book has been written to match the specification, it cannot provide complete coverage of every aspect of the course.

A wide range of other useful resources can be found on the relevant subject pages of our website: www.aqa.org.uk

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GCSE English Literature for AQA: Short Stories

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your Student Book on the AQA Short Story Anthology, *Telling Tales*, with stories by writers from the last hundred years of writing. We hope you enjoy these stories during your GCSE course and later in life.

Some of the stories deal with things that you may be familiar with, and may even be an expert on: family ties and conflicts, friendships, strong emotions and discoveries about yourself and other people. All the stories explore relationships and conflicts (*between* people and *within* people) similar to the poems in the AQA Anthology clusters on 'Love and relationships' or 'Power and conflict'. Some of the stories might make you think 'I've felt that' or 'I've thought that' – and others may make you think 'I wouldn't feel that' or 'I wouldn't think that'. Either way, the stories have the power to develop, challenge or even change the way you think and feel about yourself and about life.

Your Student Book will help you to make the most of these stories and of your GCSE. It will develop your skills in reading and responding, and help you to appreciate the writers' skills in sharing their insights and engaging you as their reader. It will also develop your skills in writing for your GCSE English Literature exam.

Here's how we have organised the book for you:

Exploring and writing about short stories

- Each unit leads you through a short story. It ensures you build a thorough understanding of the plot, the ideas and the methods that the writer has used to present situations, characters and ideas to readers.

- As well as focusing closely on the text, each unit provides activities for discussion and creative approaches to help you think further about the stories. On Cambridge Elevate you will find readings of the stories and video interviews with experts discussing key aspects of the stories. All these will develop your understanding, interpretation and analysis of the short stories.
- Your work with each story will result in notes and focused responses on aspects of the stories that are important for GCSE. These will also be useful when you write about two stories and revise for your exam.

Preparing for your examination

This part gives you practice and guidance to prepare for your examination. It also provides examples of answers, so you can use the skills you have developed and assess where your skills are strong and where to focus your effort to improve. In addition, it includes a table of themes and ideas in each of the stories, which will also be useful preparation for your exam.

We hope that you will enjoy using these resources, not only to support your GCSE study, but to see that this collection of short stories has plenty to say about life around you – and within you.

Peter Thomas, Series Editor