

A Guide to the Short Story.

Deploying a mix of theory, exercise and class discussion, this ten week 'guide to the short story' will steer participants through the elements of an effective piece of fiction. Week by week we will analyse in detail a vital component essential to the success of any short story. We will look at openings, voice, tone, point-of-view, characterisation, generating conflict, time & setting, dialogue, language, and endings. We will examine what a short story attempts to achieve, reference proven masters, and apply topics covered to prompt-based exercises. The course will also include a gentle introduction to presenting work for publication. This course is suitable for the committed beginner and for those who may have been writing for some time.

Award-winning Longford writer Alan McMonagle has published two collections of short stories, *Liar Liar* (Wordsonthestreet, 2009) and *Psychotic Episodes* (Arlen House, 2013). He has had his work produced and broadcast by RTE is also a contributor to the anthology *Young Irelanders* (New Island, 2015). Alan holds an MA in Writing from NUI, Galway.