

Small but perfectly formed: exploring the short story

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Short stories have often been characterised as the training material for novelists.

However, with acclaimed short story writer Alice Munro winning the Nobel Prize in 2013, it is clear that the value of short stories is being recognised. Neil Gaiman reflects on their value: “Short stories are tiny windows into other worlds and other minds and other dreams. They are journeys you can make to the far side of the universe and still be back in time for dinner.” We will explore this idea – and others – by looking at a range of short stories by writers playing with the form. This will include considering the enigmatic short stories of Franz Kafka, the stories-in-song of Bob Dylan, the very-short stories of Margaret Atwood, and the stories-about-stories of Ali Smith.

We will take a multi-media approach, listening, as well, to David Sedaris reading his own stories and watching adaptations of short stories.

Dates: Wednesday 8th June - 13th July

Time: 6.00 – 8.00pm

Register for this course online via www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/sis or contact Georgina Collins (0113 343 6892 / g.collins@leeds.ac.uk)