Short Story Theories

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The short story, with its shorter span than the novel's, with its freedom from forced complexity, its possible lucidity, is able, like the poetic drama, to measure man by his aspirations and dreams and place him alone on that stage which, inwardly, every man is conscious of occupying alone. (Elizabeth Bowen, Collected Stories (1980) 16). On postmodernism Project aim: to propose your own theory of the short story. This can be limited to a selection of stories, specific to a particular genre, period, or style.