

Stories

The fall of the House of Usher :

The Gothic literature short story 'The fall of the house of Usher', by Edgar Allan Poe, depicts a state of character reduction that occurs during the downhill transformation from life to death. The queer relationship between the state of the house and the Usher bloodline, through morbid images, create an ominous atmosphere.

The open boat:

The short story, 'The open boat', written by Stephen Crane showcases the struggle of four men in a small boat trying to reach shore in order to survive. During the course of the story, the characters grasp the extremity of their situation and understand the insignificance of human life, highlighting the superiority of nature.

The Moving Finger:

The psychological thriller 'The Moving Finger', by Edith Wharton, revolves around the themes of loneliness and isolation embedded in the life of the male protagonist. The combining effects of control and rivalry results in a power struggle for love, exhibited by the two male characters of the plot, arising from their dependence on a female.

There will come soft rains:

Ray Bradbury's 'There will come soft rains', is a story that essentially encapsulates the self-destructive characteristic of humans and the triumph of nature over all other entities.

The Lemon Orchard:

In the story, 'The Lemon Orchard', Alex La Guma skillfully creates a foreshadowing atmosphere and provides vivid descriptions of the condition of the blacks during the apartheid period, through the mental and physical torture the black character in the story faces.

Secrets:

The short story, 'Secrets', by Bernard MacLaverthy educates the readers about the importance of relationships. The story is a boy's memories of the time he spent with his great aunt, and how out of curiosity reads her secret letters, distancing himself from her forever.

The Skoak:

John McGahern's 'The Skoak' follows man's ever lashing need to escape from their troubles. The short story specifically follows the desire to escape from death, even after knowing that it is inevitable.

Journey:

The story 'Journey', by Patricia Grace powerfully conveys the difficulties that change brings, through the 'journey' the old man in the story embarks on.

The Bath:

The short story 'The Bath', written by Janet Frame powerfully conveys the struggle and difficulties the woman has to face due to her old age to carry out even simple tasks such as taking a bath.

On her knees:

Written by Tim Winton, the short story 'On Her knees' deals with relevant themes of family, pride and dignity.