FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT AUTHORS of SHORT STORIES

Assignment Guide – ENGL1302
LSC University Park Library

A short story is a short work of fiction. Fiction is prose writing about imagined events and characters. What makes authors such as Mark Twain, Jack London or Edgar Allen Poe remarkable short story writers? They are true masters at combining the five key elements that go into every great short story: character, setting, conflict, plot and theme. The five authors selected by your professor are also great story tellers.

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| Professor Weatherly asks that you read all of the short stories she has designated. With your group, select one of the authors. Research the author and create a presentation using PowerPoint. You should have at least 10 slides. Try to find pictures, include information about the author’s early childhood if it is available. A great option would be a biographical timeline. Significant quotes or pieces that tie your presentation to the short story would be interesting. | This guide covers internet, eBooks, and database selections that will assure you are using the best resources. In addition to biographical information, we have included internet sites and databases with information analyzing each of the short stories. While this is not part of your assignment, it may prove helpful as you read and prepare your presentation. Be careful with Internet sites. Not all are credible for your English assignment. | Peggy Whitley
Contact pwhitley@lonestar.edu 281-401-5328
HINT: Order needed materials early. |

1. Only Daughter by Sandra Cisneros
2. Shame by Dick Gregory
3. The Disappearance by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
4. Two Kinds by Amy Tan
5. White Sands by Geoff Dyer

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www.lonestar.edu/blogs/suweatherly/

INTERESTING THINKING
How did the biographical information you found affect your feeling about the story? What does the author reveal about him/herself in the story?

In the future, when reading for pleasure, will you read more by these authors?
Finding Books and eBooks

University Park Library is digital. Use the library catalog if you want to order books or resources from other libraries. [http://www.lonestar.edu/library/](http://www.lonestar.edu/library/) Allow 3-5 days. Or download or read online eBooks.

Having trouble? Books generally have more depth, so you will likely find more information through books than in a journal article or website. Well known authors, like Kate Chopin and Amy Tan, will definitely be worth a little searching through books.

Keep in mind that the author’s name is a SUBJECT or KEYWORD. You are looking for information about the authors, not by them.

Another eBook collection, Google Books, has [Sandra Cisneros: Inspiring Latina Author](http://www.lonestar.edu/library/), which may prove helpful. Search there for the other authors as well.

Finding Critical Articles in Databases

Databases contain articles, news, and multimedia on various topics. Literary databases will have journal articles reviewed by peers that are appropriate for college paper.

**Literature Resource Center**

The databases have articles from books, essays, critical works, audio, video, pictures, news articles and peer reviewed journals. The library has several helpful databases for this project. The best, Literature Resource Center, has biographical information on all five authors. Search “PEOPLE,” last name first. Or be more specific and use the [Gale Literary Databases](http://www.lonestar.edu/library/) (see image.) These databases are kin – and both are good. Start here!

![Gale Literary Databases](image)

**Academic Search Complete**

This general index to journal articles includes full text articles you may not find elsewhere. This database also includes newspapers. If you need peer-reviewed articles, limit your search (use the advanced search.)

**Internet Sites for this Research Assignment**

Here are internet sites for each of the short stories. Evaluate all resources for: a) accuracy, b) source, c) authority, d) coverage or completeness, e) objectivity and f) timeliness.

**Shame By Dick Gregory**

*Shame* is defined as "a painful feeling caused by a sense of guilt, shortcoming, impropriety; dishonor or disgrace."


**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

1. [http://www.reference.com/browse/Dick_Gregory](http://www.reference.com/browse/Dick_Gregory) This information is good and the links are worth following to interviews, newspaper articles, and external links.
Two Kinds by Amy Tan

"Two Kinds" is the last story in the second of four sections of Amy Tan’s immensely successful first book, *The Joy Luck Club*.

**AUDIO BOOK reading of *Two Kinds* CRITICISM**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgAk2JBBL5U A little biography, plus a reading of the short story.  

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**


Only Daughter by Sandra Cisneros

“Walking home over a route we’ve learned by heart, under a sky so familiar we wear it on our shoulders like a cloak, the little Paisano house gleams in the distance like a lantern, so much home we wish we never had to let it go.” – Sandra Cisneros

**AUDIO BOOK reading and CRITICISM**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhkwBnDtNgA a reading of the short story.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

2. Note: the best place to find more biographical info is in eBooks.  
Follow the links to an interview with Cisneros.

The Disappearance by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

"If words were crayolas, she (Divakaruni) clearly has the 64 size box, with the sharpener no less. “ – D. Thomas Porter, Ph.D.

**DIVAKARUNI’S WEBSITE**

http://www.chitradivakaruni.com/ Follow her twitter, join her Facebook.  
http://literatureisawesome.blogspot.com/2011/08/take-7-disappearance.html Q&A.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

1. http://www.uh.edu/class/english/programs/graduate/creative-writing/people/faculty-staff/divakaruni/index.php must see site – Professor and head of the Creative Writing program at University of Houston. Current biographical info.  

White Sands by Geoff Dyer

Geoff Dyer: We need eyes on the road – a short YouTube. Meet the author. There are several YouTube videos featuring Dyer. Use Jing to capture a small piece of the video for your presentation.

**AUDIO BOOK**

http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/geoff-dyer Short Dyer writings in the Guardian.  

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

2. Search the eBook collection for more biographical info.
## Getting Help with Your Paper

1. Use the MLA paper guide or online [MLA Guide](#).
2. Ask one of the tutors to help. Drop by or Email for an appt: [UPTutor@lonestar.edu](mailto:UPTutor@lonestar.edu)
3. Use the Writing Lab.
4. [About Student Success](#), in Angel, is a short course on study skills, doing research, using technology and more. It’s free. Beef up your skills – improve your grades.

The Chat line is open when the library is open. Contact us.
Reference Librarian: 281-401-5390.
Email at [UPLibrary-ref@lonestar.edu](mailto:UPLibrary-ref@lonestar.edu)
Website at [UP Library](#)
And [Services for Students](#)
Attend the Advanced PowerPoint session in the library, Feb 14, 2:00pm.

Peggy Whitley 1/13