

“The Shortest Stories Ever Written: Where to Find Them and How to Write Them”

Lawrence C. Connolly

Friday, June 26, 11:00-11:50 AM

IYWM

This workshop will consider the shortest stories ever written, determine what makes them work, and apply what we learn to create new works of Flash Fiction.

- I. Flash Fiction Defined
 - a. 55-1000 words
 - b. Setting
 - c. Character
 - d. Conflict
 - e. Resolution
- II. Examples
 - a. “Step on a Crack” (1000 words) by Lawrence C. Connolly
 - i. Story: <http://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/3103111>
 - ii. *Visions: Short Fantasy & SF*: <http://amzn.com/1934571016>
 - b. “Imagine” (175 words) by Fredric Brown
 - i. Story: <http://lawrenceconnolly.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/FB-Imagine.jpg>
 - ii. Best Stories of Fredric Brown: <http://amzn.com/0450055019>
 - c. “Bedtime Story” (55 words) by Jeffrey Whitmore
 - i. Story: Copyrighted material. No authorized sites available.
 - ii. World’s Shortest Stories: <http://amzn.com/B001NXCXX0>
 - d. Fewer than 55 words:
 - i. “Knock” by Fredric Brown: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knock_\(short_story\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knock_(short_story))
 - ii. “Shortest Story Ever Told”:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/For_sale:_baby_shoes,_never_worn
 - e. The lower limit:
- III. Editing Flash
 - a. Cut modifiers.
 - b. Delete repetitions.
 - c. Use active voice.
 - d. Show (don’t tell).
 - e. Use vivid nouns and verbs.
 - f. Use dialogue (but no tags).
- IV. Brainstorming Activity: <http://gorelets.com/showcase/>
- V. Markets:
 - a. Ligonier Valley Writers: <http://www.lvwonline.org/Shapshifters.html>
 - b. Vestal Review: <http://www.vestareview.net/html/guidelines.html>
 - c. Flash Fiction Online: <http://flashfictiononline.com/main/submission-guidelines/>
 - d. F&SF: <http://submissions.ccfinlay.com/fsf/>