

Short Story Circle Participation Guidelines

1. First and foremost, have fun!

Please remember that the purpose of Short Story Circle is for like-minded individuals to come together to explore the large scope of literature, share thoughts on short stories, and ultimately broaden our minds and our understanding of humanity, society, and the world.

2. Please express your thoughts and literary interpretations of a story with respect and tact.

When sharing your thoughts on a story, always be respectful towards other participants. The sharing of individual interpretations and opinions is certainly valued and even necessary in literary discussions. However, when you express your thoughts, please do so with diplomacy and good judgement.

3. Please respect the thoughts and literary interpretations of others.

Given the nature of short story discussions, you *can* and most likely *will* disagree with a particular literary interpretation at some point. That is normal and, in fact, completely expected in literary discussions. However, disagreement does not mean you may disrespect other participants. Please learn to tolerate opinions that differ from your own.

4. Please allow others to have time to share their own thoughts.

Do not dominate discussions. Please refrain from rambling and hogging discussion time. We strongly encourage participation and thus certainly hope you will feel welcome to share your thoughts. However, please allow others to have the same opportunity. We come to Short Story Circle for discussions, not lectures.

5. Please understand that sensitive topics may arise while discussing short stories.

Short stories differ in their authors, topics, themes, and writing styles. As a result, we will discuss a myriad of topics and issues, some which may be sensitive. Please understand it is not likely the intention of a particular story or participant to cause offense.