

## WONDERWORKS

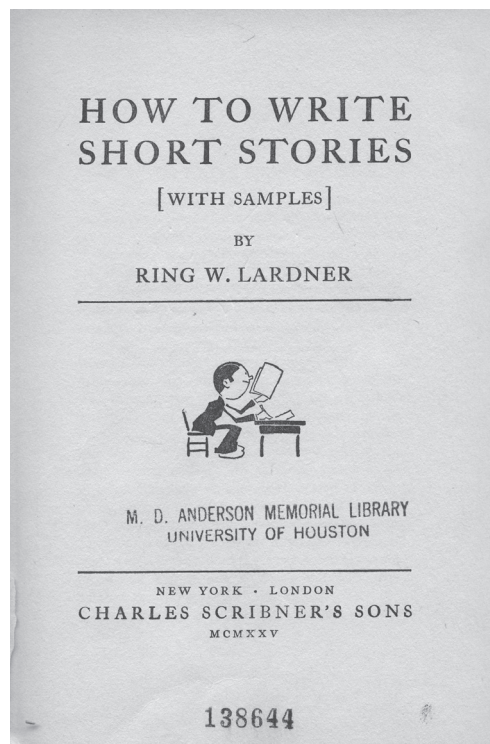
and the

Department of English and  
Creative Writing Program,  
University of Houston

present

a reading-intensive exploration  
of fiction plus films based on  
fiction and writing practicum

**11 JUNE – 13 JULY 2012**  
**10 AM – 4 PM, MONDAY – FRIDAY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**



Ring Lardner (b. Ringgold Wilmer Lardner, Niles, Michigan, 6 March 1885; d. New York, 25 September 1933) was an American original and one of the discoveries you may be making for the first time this summer in **STORY LINES**. The title for the collection was suggested by his friend F. Scott Fitzgerald and used despite the objection of another of Fitzgerald's friends, the critic Edmund Wilson. It includes two of Lardner's very best stories, "The Golden Honeymoon" and "Some Like Them Cold," the second of which he also turned into a successful play, *June Moon* (1931), in collaboration with George S. Kaufman. The (uncredited) illustration is by John Held, Jr., one of the most distinctive graphic talents of the Jazz Age (Fitzgerald named that too.) Here is what a few of Lardner's fans have said about him: *Lardner has the habit of catching human beings when they think no one is looking at them....How to Write Short Stories, with zany introductions and his own stories appended as samples, was generally taken as the first proof of his serious talent.*

Gilbert Seldes, *The Portable Ring Lardner* (Viking 1946)

Interviewer: *Were the classics mentioned in The Optimist's Daughter (i.e., Tennyson, Dickens, and Gibbon) in your parents' library?*  
Eudora Welty: *Yes, they were. Besides Mark Twain, Henry James and Ring Lardner – he's a classic to me.*

Jan Nordby Gretlund, *Southern Humanities Review* (Summer 1980)

*The English tourist in American literature wants above all things something different from what he has at home....But Mr. Lardner is not merely unaware that we differ; he is unaware that we exist.... So [he] does not waste a moment when he writes in thinking whether he is using American slang or Shakespeare's English; whether he is remembering Fielding or forgetting Fielding; whether he is proud of being American or ashamed of not being Japanese; all his mind is on the story. Hence all our minds are on the story. Hence, incidentally, he writes the best prose that has come our way.*  
Virginia Woolf, "American Fiction,"  
*The Saturday Review of Literature*, 1 August 1925

# STORY LINES

**STORY LINES** is open to high school students of special promise and ability who will be entering grades 11 or 12 next fall or who will just have graduated from high school this spring. Students admitted to the program must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Tuition is \$500. Scholarships are available, but only for students demonstrating true financial need. Admissions are determined on a need-blind basis. No student will be prevented from participating in the program because of inability to pay tuition.

Classes are held at the University of Houston Central Campus, Monday-Friday, except 4 July. This program is meant to be enjoyable, but it is also challenging and requires focused effort and commitment.

To apply, fill out the student section of this form and then have a teacher or counselor who knows you well complete the recommendation section. Your teacher or counselor should then mail (and/or fax) the completed form along with an official transcript reflecting your grades (and PSAT, SAT and/or Stanford Test scores, if available) plus any additional documentation required for scholarship consideration to:

Wonderworks  
PO Box 667550  
Houston, TX 77266-7550  
Fax: 713.523.6145

To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 4 May; early applications are encouraged.

All applicants will be notified by 25 May; early applicants will be notified sooner. Late applications will be considered only if space remains available. If you have questions or need additional information, e-mail [info@wonderworkshouston.org](mailto:info@wonderworkshouston.org) or call 713.301.4882.

*Every good story is of course both a picture and an idea, and the more they are interfused the better the problem is solved.*

**HENRY JAMES** "Guy de Maupassant," *Fortnightly Review*, March 1888

*...nobody knows anything about the laws of fiction; or what its relation is to life; or to what effects it can lend itself. We can only trust our instincts. If instinct leads one reader to call Scott a storyteller, another to call him a master of romance; if one reader is moved by art, another by life, each is right, and each can pile a card-house of theory on top of his opinion as high as he can go....A book fades like a mist, like a dream. How are we to take a stick and point to that tone, that relation, in the vanishing pages...?*

**VIRGINIA WOOLF** "The Art of Fiction," *New York Herald Tribune*, 1927

*...P. J. Wodehouse...was said to laugh as he wrote. Well, sometimes I do too.*

**EUDORA WELTY** interviewed by Jean Todd Freeman, 1977

There are many bungalows as well as mansions in the house of fiction, each raised according to its author's own lights (though sometimes with an eye to movie rights). This summer we can lend you the keys to some of the best small houses for overnight and weekend reads – short stories, long stories, and occasional short novels. This page-turning, time-share assortment of spell-binding stories will be further explored, one-by-one, in short lectures and longer reflections/discussions each morning before lunch. After lunch, a film based on a short fiction source will be introduced, screened and discussed.

The authors you read will include some of the usual suspects – Gogol, Flaubert, de Maupassant, Chekhov, Woolf, Welty – and others who may come as a surprise – Lardner, Chandler, Wodehouse, Lampedusa, Philip Roth, Barthelme, Munro, McMurtry, Trevor and Lahiri. None of them should bore you. Same goes for the movies.

You'll also have the opportunity to try your own hand/keyboard at short fiction, but reading is the heart of the matter. As Eudora Welty said: "I think always I loved writing because I loved reading. I don't mean I get my stories out of books – I don't. They spring from living. And not that I literally take things from real life, but it's living that makes me want to write, not reading – although it's reading that makes me love writing." Try it and see.

For avid readers only.

This program is made possible in part by support from **HOUSTON ENDOWMENT INC.** and **THE BROWN FOUNDATION.**

# STORY LINES

## APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT

After you have completed the student part of this form, give it to your teacher or counselor to complete and have them submit it WITH A TRANSCRIPT plus any supporting documentation required for scholarship consideration either by mail:

**STORY LINES**  
Wonderworks  
PO Box 667550  
Houston Texas 77266-7550

or by fax:

**STORY LINES**  
713-523.6145

**EARLY  
DECISIONS  
FOR  
EARLY  
APPLICATIONS**

### To be filled out by the student (please print):

name (last, first, middle)

mailing address

city/zip code

e-mail address (your own or that of a parent or teacher)

home telephone

date of birth sex

high school grade you will enter next fall

school district

mother/female guardian's name

address

telephone

e-mail address (if any)

occupation college graduate?

father/male guardian's name

address

telephone

e-mail address (if any)

occupation college graduate?

To be filled out by the student and parent/guardian ONLY if applying for a need-based scholarship.

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches and/or are enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) automatically receive full scholarships, subject to verification; other students may be eligible for full or partial scholarships based on family income as reflected on their parents' or guardians' most recent Federal Income Tax return(s). If parents are divorced, BOTH must provide copies of their tax returns.

All scholarships are need-based and therefore not available to students whose parents or guardians can afford tuition and fees without undue financial difficulty. This program is able to sustain its policy of need-blind admissions only by reserving scholarships for those who actually need them. If you truly need a scholarship, ask for it, but if you don't, don't.

I receive a free or reduced-cost lunch at school:  
 yes  no

Verified by school official:

signature of school official

printed name title

I am enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

yes  no

*Please include a copy of the enrollment certificate.*

If the answer to either of the questions above is yes, you already qualify for a tuition waiver and do NOT need to provide information concerning family income. Otherwise, please furnish the following information:

My family's TOTAL INCOME for 2011 (or 2010 if the 2011 return has not yet been filed – circle one) as reported to the US Internal Revenue Service on line 4 of Form 1040EZ; line 22 of Form 1040; or line 15 of Form 1040A was: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*As verification, you must also include a copy of first page of Form 1040EZ or the first two pages of Forms 1040 or 1040A.*

For all tuition waiver applicants:

I affirm that the information provided above is true and correct.

signature of parent or guardian

printed name of parent or guardian

Please remember that all information provided in this section is subject to verification. False or inaccurate statements and/or material omissions will cause the application for enrollment as well as scholarship assistance to be rejected.

To be filled out by a teacher who knows you well and/or a counselor.

Cumulative grade point average: \_\_\_\_\_

Class ranking (approximate):

top 10 per cent  top 50 per cent  
 top 25 per cent  other

The curriculum the student is taking can best be described as:

honors  regular  
 gifted  college prep  
 vocational

The student's behavior is:

always courteous and respectful  
 usually courteous and respectful  
 sometimes rowdy and/or has difficulty getting along  
 frequently rowdy and/or has difficulty getting along

Overall, I would recommend this student:

most highly  
 highly  
 with reservations (please explain)

Any additional comments you feel would help us assess the student's abilities (attach a separate sheet if necessary).

signature

printed name

title

daytime/evening phone numbers

e-mail address



Have you remembered to include a transcript?

WonderWorksHouston.org