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## Short Stories Creative Final Project

### **Project Description:**

In this project, I wanted to take a look at the different writing styles of the authors we read from throughout this course. Specifically, I chose to look at Salinger, Joyce, and Berlin. Taking the key elements of that and combining it with my interest in computer science, I made a website that takes some user input and generates the first portion of a short story written in the selected author's writing style based on a chosen topic. The model I used is similar to GPT but a lot worse since I didn't want to spend money 😅. The generating process is incredibly slow (also because I didn't want to pay) so definitely do other stuff while waiting.

In this document, I included links to the website, my code, and the keywords in my code corresponding to the author's style that I incorporated into the prompt. The next page includes my brief analysis of each of the author's writing styles. Finally, I included some example website runs at the bottom of this document.

Thanks for the enjoyable course this semester! I put a lot of work in to figure out how to get all this stuff working together so I hope you find it interesting. Beware that the website is insanely slow though so it might be good to start generating and go do other stuff and come back like a long time later. Thanks again!

**Website:** <https://short-story-gen.streamlit.app/>

**Code:** <https://github.com/eric-zzhou/Short-Story-Generation>

### **Keywords:**

"J. D. Salinger": "third person narration, authentic dialogue, complex symbolism, descriptive setting, and character inner thoughts",

"James Joyce": "first person narration, stream of consciousness, and major climax and resolution",

"Lucia Berlin": "laid back first person storytelling, marginalized main character, and life experiences"

## Style Analysis

### J. D. Salinger:

Salinger's writing style is filled with authentic dialogue. He uses dialogue to show glimpses of personalities behind the characters. This was seen in "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" where the exchange between Seymour and Sybil portrayed Seymour's eccentricity and distance attitude, while the conversation between Muriel and her mother showed her materialism and carelessness.

Salinger also employs internal monologues to unveil the psychological depth behind his characters and explore the underlying themes of the stories. In "Seymour: An Introduction", we see the whole story from Buddy's perspective. Through his thinking, we see how much he idolizes Seymour and how displaced he feels throughout the story. This writing also adds the possibility of a biased narrator, an additional layer for readers to consider.

Overall, although Salinger's stories have depth, the actual writing is not overly complex. The sentences are straightforward even as the themes and symbols provide depth. The detailed descriptions are generally involved in describing the setting and at the climax of the stories (i.e., fancy hotel and suicide scene in Bananafish), setting the reader up for the events to follow. The stories we read often focused on themes of materialism, identity, and finding meaning.

### James Joyce:

Although Joyce's writing also includes dialogue, the most important aspect of his writing is the stream-of-consciousness style. We follow along with the main characters in their journeys, experiencing their lives and the problems they face. Through this technique, Joyce can express what the characters are feeling clearly. This was particularly memorable in Araby, as we followed the main character's journey: talking with his crush, frustration with his uncle, and ultimately his helplessness and anger at his incapability at the bazaar.

Further building on the realism of experiencing the story along with the character, Joyce consistently includes a lot of imagery in his writing, with detailed description of every setting. This was especially apparent in his use of different colors as well as contrast of light and darkness to portray the mood and perception of the characters.

Overall, the plots generally involve a climax and resolution and focus on major life events at different stages in life.

### **Lucia Berlin:**

While Berlin's writing is easily digestible and straightforward, it gives a glimpse into the diverse experiences in life. Rather than strictly following plotlines, Berlin focuses on various facets of daily life. Her writing focuses on personal identity, how it is molded by one's environment, and the additional struggles faced by marginalized individuals.

Her short stories, often semi-autobiographical in nature, incorporate her own life experiences, creating a sense of authenticity and realism. Berlin seamlessly weaves elements from her own life, including her previous roles as a nurse and a maid as well as her diverse experiences in various regions in Central America and the United States.

Berlin's short stories often explore the themes of addiction, family dynamics, and human relationships—all major aspects of her life. She offers insight into the human condition and thinking, reflecting the chaotic nature of life but also the strength of human resilience.

# Generate Short Stories in your Favorite Author's Style!

Select an author:

J. D. Salinger

Enter a topic for the story:

broken heart

Generate Story

Write a detailed story in the style of J. D. Salinger on broken heart. Include a lot of third person narration, authentic dialogue, complex symbolism, descriptive setting, and character inner thoughts

Story:

In the quaint town of Cornish, where the houses huddled together like old friends, there lived a young man named Tom. Tom was a quiet soul, with a heart as delicate as the petals of a rose, and a mind as sharp as the winter winds that swept through the town. He was a man of few words, but his silence spoke volumes.

Tom's heart had been broken, shattered into a thousand pieces by the one he loved, a woman named Lily. Lily was a vision of beauty, with eyes that sparkled like the stars and a laugh that echoed through the town like a sweet melody. She was the sun that warmed Tom's frozen heart, the light that guided him through the darkest nights.

Their love story began in the summer of '63, when Tom and Lily first met at the local diner. The diner was a cozy place, with red vinyl booths and a jukebox that played the tunes of a bygone era. The walls were adorned with faded photographs of the town's founding fathers, and the air was thick with the scent of freshly brewed coffee and the warmth of shared stories.

On that fateful day, Tom and Lily found themselves seated at the same booth, their eyes meeting across the room. The connection was instant, like two magnets drawn together by an invisible force. They spent the entire afternoon talking, their words flowing like a river, carrying them deeper into the realm of their hearts.

As the summer days melted into the autumn, their love blossomed like the leaves that painted the town in hues of gold and crimson. They would take long walks through the woods, hand in hand, their footsteps crunching the fallen leaves beneath their feet. The woods were a sanctuary, a place where they could escape the world and lose themselves in the embrace of nature.

But as the seasons changed, so did their love. The winter of '64 brought with it a chill that seeped into their hearts, a coldness that threatened to freeze the warmth they had once shared. Lily began to withdraw, her laughter fading like the last rays of sunlight on

# Generate Short Stories in your Favorite Author's Style!

Select an author:

James Joyce

Enter a topic for the story:

spy, espionage

Generate Story

Write a detailed story in the style of James Joyce on spy, espionage. Include a lot of first person narration, stream of consciousness, and major climax and resolution

Story:

I am an apparition, a specter in the grand theatre of espionage, a phantom cloaked in the shadows of secrecy. My name, a cipher, a riddle wrapped in enigma, is known to none but the whispering winds and the silent stars. I am the spy, the unseen hand that guides the chess pieces of nations, the silent observer in the cacophony of human folly.

The city, a labyrinth of steel and concrete, pulsates with life, a living organism that breathes and bleeds in the rhythm of its own heartbeat. I navigate its veins, a ghost in the machine, a specter in the crowd. The streets are my playground, the alleys my sanctuary, the cafes my stage.

My mind, a tempestuous sea, churns with thoughts and memories, a ceaseless stream of consciousness that ebbs and flows like the tides. I am a vessel, a conduit for the secrets that pass through my veins, secrets that could ignite wars or quell them.

I recall the first time I donned the mask of a spy, the weight of the world pressing down on my shoulders, the gravity of my mission. I was but a pawn in a game of kings and queens, a mere cog in the grand machinery of espionage. Yet, I was determined to rise above my station, to become the master of my fate, the captain of my soul.

The world is a stage, and I am but a player, a mere actor in the grand drama of life. I am the observer, the silent witness to the follies and foibles of mankind. I am the keeper of secrets, the guardian of the unspoken truths that lie hidden beneath the surface of society.

My days are a blur of clandestine meetings and covert exchanges, a constant dance with danger and deceit. I am a shadow, a whisper in the dark, a fleeting presence that leaves no trace. I am the unseen hand that moves the pieces on the chessboard of international intrigue.

The city is a symphony of sound and fury, a cacophony of

# Generate Short Stories in your Favorite Author's Style!

Select an author:

Lucia Berlin

Enter a topic for the story:

life as a delivery driver

Generate Story

Write a detailed story in the style of Lucia Berlin on life as a delivery driver. Include a lot of laid back first person storytelling, marginalized main character, and life experiences

Story:

I've always been a bit of a square peg, never quite fitting into the neat little holes society tries to force us into. My name's Joe, and I've been a delivery driver for the better part of a decade now. It's a job that's as much about the people you meet as it is about the packages you deliver.

The sun's just starting to peek over the horizon, casting a warm glow on the dusty streets of town. I'm sitting in my beat-up old truck, the engine humming like an old friend, waiting for the first order of the day. The radio's on, but the music's just background noise, a soft murmur in the otherwise quiet morning.

My first stop is Mrs. Henderson's house. She's a sweet old lady with a garden that's the envy of the neighborhood. Her house is a little too big for her, but she's always had a soft spot for the underdog. I've been delivering to her for years now, and she's always been kind to me.

"Morning, Joe," she greets me with a smile as I hand her the package. "How's the world treating you today?"

"Not too bad, Mrs. H," I reply, returning her smile. "Just another day in paradise."

I make my way to the next stop, a rundown apartment complex on the outskirts of town. The place is a bit rough around the edges, but the people who live there are just as colorful as the buildings themselves. I've gotten to know a few of them over the years, and they've become like family to me.

There's a young man named Tommy, who's always got a wry smile on his face and a story to tell. He's a talented artist, but life hasn't been kind to him. He's been through more than his fair share of hardships, but he's still got that spark in his eyes that tells me he's not giving up.

As I hand him his package, he thanks me and asks about my day. We chat for a few minutes, and I can't help but feel a sense of camaraderie with him