According to Azhikode,

the **short story** has existed

"in the most ancient times as

joke". All languages have had variations of short tales and stories almost since their inceptions.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_story#cite_note-:02-14) Emerging in the 17th century from oral [storytelling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storytelling) traditions, the short story has grown to encompass a body of work so diverse as to defy easy characterization. "The short story as a carefully contrived literary form is of modern origin", wrote Azhikode