

**21W.731: WRITING WORKSHOP- SHORT FICTION REVIEWING GUIDELINES - SPRING 2004—WORKSHOP: THURS. 5/6**

Due: Response letters to group members (copies for instructor).

As you review one another's short stories (or novel segments), here are a few guidelines. In your letters to classmates who have written short fiction pieces, please comment on the following

\*How well has the writer created a self-contained piece of short fiction ? (Remember: the story needs to have a point, should show movement in its character(s), but need not fit the classic conflict-climax-resolution model of the short story.)

\* the style(s) of narration of the story (first person, third person, etc.)

\*the author's use of setting to establish a context for the story and its character(s)

\*the use of language to describe and develop characters individually and in relation to one another

\*the use of time and memory in narration (what other ways can the story be narrated?)

\*the use of dialogue and interior monologue

\*the use of foreshadowing, symbolism, figurative language, etc.

Suggestions for improvement: Is there anything else (more backstory, more complex character development, fuller dialogue) that you wish the writer had included? Are there ways in which the story might be shortened or lengthened? Are there any other ideas that you have for improving the story and making it clearer, more compelling and accessible to a wider audience? If you feel that this is an engaging piece of fiction but not a "short story", can you imagine it as a novel segment?