

CLOSE-READING WORKSHOP · FOUR SESSIONS

How Chekhov Ends

On the last paragraph of the modern short story

A four-session close-reading workshop on four late Chekhov stories, read with attention to the ending Chekhov taught fiction how to make. Chekhov did not invent the modern short story, but he did teach it how to end. This workshop reads four of his finest late stories with a single question: what does the last paragraph do?

SIX REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Session 1 — 'The Lady with the Dog': the ending that does not resolve
2. Session 2 — 'The Bishop': the ending that holds suffering without dramatizing it
3. Session 3 — 'Gooseberries': the ending that implicates the reader
4. Session 4 — 'A Day in the Country': the joyful Chekhov ending
5. Rhetorical techniques: the Chekhov ending as a positive craft choice
6. Contrast with Tolstoy and Dickens

FORMATS · ALL CAN BE ADAPTED TO YOUR CALENDAR

- Full series:** The full set of sessions (see above)
- Workshop:** Shorter version, shaped to the venue's calendar
- Single talk:** One 60-90 minute lecture on a chosen theme
- Delivery:** In person, on Zoom, or hybrid

INSTRUCTOR · JAMES F. MULHERN

Kirkus-starred novelist · Oxford Writing Fellow · Professor Emeritus of English

Give Them Unquiet Dreams — Kirkus Best Book of 2019. Pushcart Prize nomination. Founder, Silver Current Press.

TO BOOK OR ASK QUESTIONS

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