



## Stories By Frank O'Connor

*By Frank O'Connor*

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### Stories By Frank O'Connor By Frank O'Connor

O'Connor was best known for his varied and comprehensive short stories but also as a literary critic, essayist, travel writer, translator and biographer. He was a novelist, poet and dramatist. From the 1930 - 1960 he was a prolific writer of short stories, poems, plays, and novellas. His work as an Irish teacher complemented his plethora of translation of *The Midnight Court*. Many of O'Connor's writings were based on his own life experiences - his character Larry Delaney in particular. His experiences in the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War are reflected in *The Big Fellow*, his biography of Irish revolutionary leader Michael Collins, (1937), famous best-known short stories, *Guests of the Nation* (1931), published in various forms during O'Connor's lifetime and included in *Frank O'Connor - Collected Stories*, (1981). O'Connor's early years are recounted in *An Only Child*, a memoir published in 1961 but which has the immediacy of a precocious diary. U.S. President John F. Kennedy quoted from *An Only Child* in his remarks introducing the American commitment to land a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s. Kennedy described the long walks O'Connor would take with his friends and how, when they came to a wall that seemed too formidable to climb over, they would throw their caps over the wall so they would be forced to scale the wall after them. Kennedy concluded, "This nation has tossed its cap over the wall of space and we have no choice but to follow it." O'Connor continued his autobiography through his time with the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, which ended in 1939, in his book, *My Father's Son*, which was published in 1968, after O'Connor's death. Neil Jordan's film *The Crying Game* was partly inspired by O'Connor's short story, *Guests of the Nation*, which chronicles a doomed friendship between a pair of I.R.A. soldiers and two British prisoners they are guarding. (Source Wikipedia)

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## Stories By Frank O'Connor By Frank O'Connor Bibliography

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