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Best Shorts: Favorite Stories for Sharing

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Reviewer: Gillian Streeter  
Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Short stories;  
Subject: Children's stories; Short stories--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Avi presents a collection of varied short stories, especially intended for readers to share with others—whether in a classroom or home setting, between friends, in conversation, or in the library. Readers can find classic standbys like "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Lady or the Tiger?" and discover more recent works like the spooky "Caller" and the quirky "The Baby in the Night Deposit Box."

The stories vary in genre so readers will find at least one that they like. The introduction offers a brief discussion of the stories included and the reasons for the collection. The collection ends with an afterward by Katherine Paterson, encouraging readers once more to share the stories and learn from each other's reading. This would be an excellent addition to a family or classroom library. There are brief and readable biographic paragraphs on each author at the end of the book.