**附件：知识点讲解文稿样例**

Hello, I’m Professor Yu Jianhua. Welcome to Unit Two. In this Unit, we’ll be discussing the roles of the author, the narrator and the reader. And the short story “A Piece of Yellow Soap” by Frank Sargeson will be used to give an illustration of the ideas.

The **author** of a short story is the one who writes it. But the one who “writes” the story is not the one who “tells” it – we call the story-teller the **narrator**. Most likely, we do not know the author, the living physical person. What we know is the “**implied author**,” the image, ideas and attitude of the author that we infer from reading his/her work. In *Narrative Fiction: Contemporary Poetics* Rimmon-Kenan says: “The implied author, being voiceless and silent, must be seen as a construct inferred and assembled by the reader from all the components of the text.”

For example, judging from a short story you have read, you might think that the person who writes it is a staunch supporter of women’s equal rights, but the actual writer could still be a person who demands his wife serving him at home. So, the implied author is not necessarily the same as the real author.

Since there is an implied author, there is also an **implied reader**. Every author, when writing, would have to imagine a certain type of person who could serve as the ideal reader. For example, one particular piece of writing might aim at teenagers, or reform-minded left, or middle-class housewives. Wolfgang Iser says that “Any text may be said to presuppose an ‘ideal reader’ who has the particular attitudes appropriate to that text in order for it to achieve its full effect.”

Fiction has no real existence until it is read by someone. So on the receptive end, the **reader** plays an important role. To varying degrees, almost every piece of short story means differently to different readers, depending on their age, education, gender, nationality, political and religious beliefs and personal life experiences. The reading process is thus interactive, with the reader playing the role of both a receiver and a contributor, as meaning can only be discovered and constructed by the reader. It is therefore a mistake to think that, for each story, there is a “correct” interpretation for all readers. （来源：中国大学MOOC课程《英语短篇小说》Unit2 Part1，虞建华老师）