

Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

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The Washwoman

By Isaac Bashevis Singer

Pg. 23-32



About the Selection

- In “The Washwoman,” Singer recalls the woman who did his family’s laundry when he was a child in Poland.
- Singer never forgets her courage and endurance.

Before You Read

- **Narrative Essay** – is a short piece of nonfiction that tells a story about a real person or an event.
- **Main Character** – most of the story revolves around this character
- **Subordinate Character** – this is a minor, supporting, or background character
- **Motivations** – goals
- **Prediction** – an informed idea about what might happen later in a narrative
- **Verify Prediction** – you read to see if the prediction is correct
- **Ask Questions** – who, what, when, where, why, how

Vocabulary

- **Forebears** - ancestors
- **Accumulated** – piled up, collected, or gathered together, especially over a period of time.
- **Rancor** – bitter hate

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- **Atonement** – act of making up for a wrongdoing or an injury
- **Obstinacy** - stubbornness
- **Pious** – having or showing religious devotion

Word Study

- The *Old English* prefix **fore-** means “earlier” or “in front of”
 - forebears

About the Author

- Grew up in Warsaw
- Father was a rabbi
- Fled to New York in 1935 from persecution against Jews
- As he wrote during WWII about European Jewry, villages like the one of his birth were wiped out.

Background – Jews in Poland

- It is not certain when the first Jewish people arrived in Poland, but many came during the 1300s when anti-Semitism was especially strong across much of Europe.
- Poland, in contrast, offered Jewish people sanctuary and legal rights that were unusual for the time period.
- By 1500, more than half of the world’s Jewish population lived in Poland – a percentage that remained more or less constant until World War II.
- Although their legal rights and privileges varied over the centuries, Polish Jews often enjoyed security and freedom that were difficult to find in other countries.

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New Directions

By Maya Angelou

Pg. 34-38



About the Selection

- “New Directions” is more than a biographical sketch of one woman’s road from adversity to success.
- It is about choices.
- Annie Johnson is temporarily the victim of circumstances.
- She could give up, but she does not.
- Instead, she shows us that success follows those who are courageous, creative, and flexible in their decision.

Before You Read

- Narrative Essay

Vocabulary

- **Conceded** – admitted as true or valid; acknowledged
- **Amicably** – in a friendly way
- **Meticulously** – very carefully and precisely
- **Balmy** – having the qualities of balm; soothing, mild, pleasant
- **Ominous** – threatening
- **Unpalatable** – distasteful; unpleasant

Word Study

- The *Latin prefix con-* means “with” or “together”
 - Concedes

About the Author

- Raised in segregated Arkansas
- Moved to San Francisco in 1940 to work as a waitress, cook, and dancer
- In the 1950s moved to New York to become a writer.
- Pulitzer Prize nomination

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- Read at President Clinton’s 1993 inauguration

Background – Limited Options

- In the early 1900s, African Americans in the South faced extreme prejudice and hatred.
- During Reconstruction, federal soldiers protected the rights of the newly freed slaves.
- African Americans voted and served in government.
- When the troops withdrew, legal maneuvering, intimidation, and other tactics stripped African Americans of their rights and opportunities.
- At the turn of the twentieth century, opportunities for African Americans were at a low point.
- Many began migrating north in the hope of finding better living and working conditions.
- Those who stayed behind struggled to survive.
- In general, only the most menial tasks were open to them.

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Sonata for Harp and Bicycle

By Joan Aiken

Pg. 43-56



Before You Read

- **Plot** – is the sequence of events in a narrative.
- **Conflict** – problem
 - **Exposition** – characters and setting are introduced.
 - **Rising Action** – central conflict begins
 - **Climax** – high point of intensity in the conflict is reached.
 - **Falling Action** – conflict’s intensity lessens
 - **Resolution** – conflict concludes, and loose ends are tied up.
- **Foreshadowing** – the use of clues to hint at events that will happen later in a story
- **Suspense** – a feeling of tension that keeps readers wondering what will happen next.
- **Prediction** – is an idea you develop about what will happen later in a narrative.

Vocabulary

- **Encroaching** – intruding
- **Tantalizingly** – in a teasing way
- **Furtive** – sneaky; hidden
- **Menacing** – threatening

About the Selection

- “Sonata for Harp and Bicycle,” combines the elements of mystery, romance, and the supernatural – with a wink of Greek mythology included.
- A hero challenges absurd rules of his office and the fears of his coworkers by entering the office building after dark – a forbidden act.
- He uses his problem-solving skills to rid the building of two ghosts and to ensure a triumph of love
- Readers will enjoy the skill with which Aiken uses visual and musical imagery to build suspense, as well as the touches of humor that lighten this modern-day ghost story.

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- **Reciprocate** – return
- **Preposterous** – so contrary to common sense as to be laughable; absurd; ridiculous

Word Study

- The suffix **-ate** means “to become or form,” and it often indicates the word is a verb
 - Reciprocate

About the Author

- Daughter of American poet, Conrad Aiken
- Born in England
- Step father was writer Martin Armstrong
- Began writing at the age of five
- Published at sixteen

Background – Sonatas

- The musical structure of a sonata can be compared to a story’s plot structure.
- It begins with an *exposition* (conflict introduced), which introduces a main and secondary theme.
- Next comes the *development* (rising action), which freely plays with and spins out the two themes of the exposition until it reaches a climax.
- The next stage is the *recapitulation* (falling action) which repeats the exposition, often varying it somewhat.
- The sonata ends with the *coda* (resolution), which is a kind of comment on or summary of the previous stages.
- The coda is often much shorter than the other three sections.

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The Cask of Amontillado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Pg. 60

Before You Read

- Plot

Vocabulary

- **Precluded** – prevented
- **Retribution** – payback; punishment for a misdeed
- **Afflicted** – suffering or sickened
- **Explicitly** – clearly stated
- **Recoiling** – staggering back
- **Subsided** – settled down; became less active or intense

Word Study

- The suffix **-tion** means “the act of.” It usually indicates the word is a noun.
 - Retribution

About the Author

-

Background – Catacombs

- From before Roman times, people across the Mediterranean region built catacombs as places of burial.
- Greeks and Romans ordinarily used cremation, but Christians and Jewish people buried their dead.
- The catacombs were begun on a single level, with separate chambers or galleries laid out like a honeycomb.

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Checkouts

By Cynthia Rylant

Pg. 81-85



Before You Read

- **Narrative Point of View** – is the perspective from which a story is narrated or told.
- **First-person point of view** – the narrator is a character who participates in the action and uses the first-person pronouns I and me.
- **Third-person point of view** – the narrator is not a character in the story but a voice outside it.
- **Third-person omniscient point of view** – the narrator knows everything, including the thoughts of all the characters.
- **Third-person limited point of view** – the narrator sees and reports things through one character’s eyes.
- **Cultural perspective** – is another, related, element of many literary works. This perspective can be strongly influenced by the customs and beliefs of the place and time in which he or she lives.

Background

- In many cultures, work experiences are a way that young adults learn more

About the Selection

- Comparing Texts (Level 3a)
- Characters Point of View
- Perspective of the girl in each story is affected by their cultures and the roles of women
- Do you think this is a love story? What would that be? The title?
- In “Checkouts,” a girl and boy fall in love at first sight, but never actually meet.
- Readers might expect such a missed opportunity to lead to a sad ending, but the plot takes a different turn.
- For both characters, the unrealized romance leads to new opportunities, not only for friendships and romance, but also for self-discovery.
- “Humans are very complicated”
 - Story is an essay of a kind that seeks to define this
- 2b – Title? Ironic and fascinating... double meaning
 - Checking out at the grocery store
 - To literally Check someone out.
- Name of the girl and boy in the story?
 - Author does not give it to us
 - We do know the girl was forced to move from a rural to an urban place.
- Buddha – life is suffering
 - The girl suffered by sitting in the house bored all day
 - Going to the store is a form of meditation
- She didn’t want her parents to know that she not only wanted to go to the store, she enjoyed it.

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about their abilities, interests, strengths, and weaknesses.

- Rural teens may perform work that requires them to drive farm machinery and trucks.
- Suburban urban teens often work in retail, in malls or supermarkets.
- The bag boy in “Checkouts” has one of more common jobs for teenager.

Vocabulary

- **Reverie** – dreamy thinking and imagining.
- **Dishevelment** – disorder; messiness
- **Perverse** – different from what is considered right or reasonable.

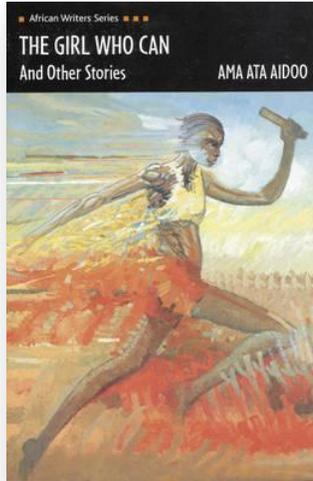
- 2b – Point of View
 - Who is telling the story, what perspective
 - This story is Third-person omniscient.
- “Brown depression” – all the bags were brown paper bags
- They are both totally into each other, but neither knows it.
- Love at first sight – Cupid
 - Romeo and Juliet – the approach of Romeo the Juliet asking for a kiss
 - In the minutes that you want something you can’t say it.
 - This young man is not as bold as Romeo.
 - Both parties are afraid
- Captures how most children won’t admit to what they want, but are frustrated when no one will give it to them.
- What if?
- 2a – themes: love, do you share or not share, suffering, and fear
- Why is meeting other people such a freaky thing?
- She is trapped in a situation she didn’t want to be in, but it all worked out for her (moving to a city)
- She gives just enough information that the reader can identify with both the girl and the boy.
- Parents are left out of the story
- 3a – Romeo and Juliet, Pyramus and Thisbe
 - The guy and girl like each other but can’t have each other
 - Adults moving the children around
 - What degree is it true that you are complicated? How does this story help you understand that complication?

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The Girl Who Can

By Ama Ata Aidoo

Pg. 86-92



Before You Read

- Point of View

Background – Women in Africa

- In rural African villages, a woman's traditional role has been to give birth and raise children.
- In recent years, many people have challenged this notion of women's role in society, advocating equality between men and women.
- Writers like Ama Ata Aidoo have been instrumental in promoting feminism within Africa and beyond.

Vocabulary

- **Fertile** – rich in nutrients that promote growth
- **Comprehension** – understanding
- **Humble** – modest; having humility

About the Selection

- In “The Girl Who Can,” seven-year-old Adjoa challenges her grandmother's views about a woman's place in society.
- Convinced that Adjoa's legs are too thick for childbearing, the grandmother often worries about Adjoa's future.
- Adjoa's success as runner convinces her grandmother that there are other things she can accomplish in life besides motherhood.
- In this story, readers witness how traditional views and progressive notions about women can intersect across generations.
- 2b – Point of View (Literary Analysis)
- 3a – Comparing texts from Cultural Point of View
- 2b – Titles matter
- *Looking primarily at the central conflict of the story* – the fight of the story
- Cultural tension – sociology and psychology
- Compare to “Checkouts”
- “Oh, grown-ups are so strange.”
 - Grown ups think and want different things than children
- What would be another title for this story?
 - Something to do with legs?
 - *Skinny Legs and All* – Tom Robbins
- What's significant about “they say” being repeated.
 - Separates the child from the adults as other, a child may not

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	<p>have full understanding of what the parents mean.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children are born into a culture where they are told how they fit into it.• “Children should be seen and not heard”• Conflict<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Internal: Character vs. Self (Hamlet)• When was the last time you needed communicate with an adult, but you didn’t because you were afraid of being laughed at?• All three primary characters are female in a patriarchal society.• “They don’t need to hear your thoughts”<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You are a female and a child• Narrative Essay• What’s up with Adoo’s legs?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They are too thin and too long for childbearing.○ They are good for running.○ Again, she is 7-years-old• Conflict<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ External: Character vs. idea○ Females are born to give birth○ 2b – the legs in this story are a symbol of cultural expectations• Conflict<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The legs allow her to run and win○ She becomes self-conscious about her legs○ Children aren’t that way until an adult makes them that way○ Was there ever a time that an adult made you feel self-conscious?○ Adults can pass on insecurities to children○ It’s interesting what opportunities school can provide.
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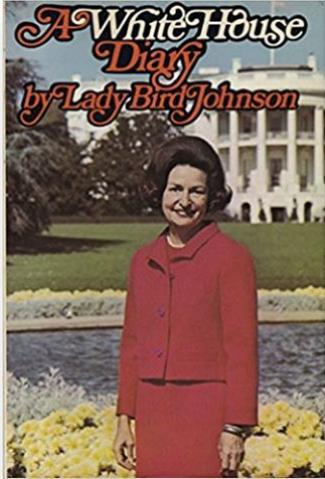
- The sense of time in the text
- Winning
 - She recognizes that it is her legs that allow her to win
 - Who is the one most excited – Nana, who was the most critical of her
- Message/Theme –
 - Young people we inherit insecurities from the adults around us who may say things off the cuff
 - The world you are born into defines who you are.
 - Discovery is a wonderful thing
- Cultural Comparisons
 - The story plays a game
 - What is similar about the two texts – American vs. African
 - Differences in freedom
 - The parents do not demand who the girl is with in “Checkouts,”
 - Both females are spunky and do not like to be told what to do
 - Do you know a young woman like that?
 - Are young girls treated equally to young men in the US?
- Challenge the reader to the idea of what adults think vs. what children think, and how adults may not appreciate you?
 - Issues of power and expectations.

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A White House Diary

By Lady Bird Johnson

Pg. 101-110



Before You Read

- Voice – is the way a writer sounds on the page.
- Autobiographical writing – the author relates his or her own life story
- Author’s Purpose – main reason for writing.

Vocabulary

- **Tumultuous** – greatly disturbed; in an uproar
- **Implications** – indirect results
- **Confines** – boundaries or bounded region; border; limit
- **Desolate** – forlorn; wretched
- **Poignant** – emotionally touching
- **Immaculate** – perfectly correct; without a flaw, fault, or error

Word Study

- The *Latin* root **-fin-** means “end.”
 - Confines

Background

- Shortly after President Kennedy’s assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald, a

About the Selection

- Lady Bird Johnson – the wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson.
- In this excerpt from *A White House Diary*, Lady Bird Johnson recalls the day President John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas, TX. November 22, 1963
- Johnson, wife of the vice president, was in Kennedy’s motorcade when the shots rang out.
- She describes the feelings of shock, horror, and helplessness at the event and recalls details of the somber plane fight back to Washington.
- A day that many have argued was one of the most tragic days in Modern History
- 2b (Voice) – respectful
 - Both JFK and his wife Jackie were amazing people and she wants to show reverence to that
 - Tragic – “I can’t believe this actually happened”
 - Irony – it was actually a beautiful and happy moment and day
 - Suddenly the moment was interrupted by the gun shots
 - Many people reported that they thought it was firecrackers
- Confusion, the most powerful moment is when she gives one last look at Jackie lying over JFK’s body with her infamous pink suit, covered in blood
- This does what for the reader? Gives it the human element, makes it personal
- She gives names to the secret servicemen

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<p>supporter of Communist Cuba, was arrested for the crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two days later, during a transfer between jails, Oswald was fatally shot by a nightclub owner named Jack Ruby, who soon thereafter died of cancer.• Neither man lived to stand trial.• Newly sworn-in President Johnson ordered a committee formed to investigate the assassination.• The committee found no evidence of a conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy, nor any link connecting Oswald to Ruby.• Despite the committee’s findings, conspiracy theories still exist.• However, no person has ever confessed to involvement in such a conspiracy, nor has any hard evidence contradicted the committee’s findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A sense of impending – what are we going to do about this?• LBJ is calm and quiet, he knows that he has a role to play<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ He is about to be sworn in as President• The meeting between the two ladies<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “She was quite alone”○ No one is there with her○ She would live out the rest of her life alone• Female writer, talking about the different female strengths• Ladybird helps us to understand and make this moment real, many lives were changed forever.• Can you relate to a tragic moment in your life that changed you?• Who is the “them” that she is talking about?• 3b - A time you tried to express an idea, but you couldn’t do it with words?• If someone had to step in, LBJ was the one to do it.• Messages/Themes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The strength of the women in the story○ The national tragedy○ This is how to study history, let someone who was there tell you about it.○ Ripple effect of moments• Rhetoric<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Repetition of the word blood• What do you know about this moment in time?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TV shows, movies, songs, from school?• Tragedy – what is the single worst moment in US History?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lincoln, JFK, 9/11?○ What was the moment for you that you can resonate with? Shocked/numb?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The days/months/years that followed? How did it change you?
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My English

By Julia Alvarez

Pg. 112-120



About the Selection

- In “My English,” Julia Alvarez describes her introduction to English and the slow process of learning the language, first picking up a few words and then gradually absorbing more and more.
- Her vocabulary soon combines Spanish and English words in a hybrid language she calls Spanglish.
- It is only after considerable effort – and the inspiration of master teachers – that her command of English becomes complete.
- Why is it that we can learn language in the first place?
 - It is taught, we use it, but it is taught from a culture.
- This is an autobiographical essay where experience Voice.
- We learn language to learn about our own language
- Perspective of a child, who learns things and then wants to use it.
- She will feel left out if people speak a different language.
- Mother Tongue – the language of your birth.
- It would make you feel lesser/alienated from the others if you couldn’t understand the language around you.
- Idiomatic expressions – special use of the language
- The teacher doesn’t just teach her grammar, but how to love the language
- All forms of learning is hard

Before You Read

- Voice

Vocabulary

- **Bilingual** – using two languages
- Countenance – face
- **Ponderously** – ponderously
- **Enumerated** – named one by one; specified, as in a list
- **Interminably** – endlessly
- **Accentuated** – emphasized; heightened the effect of

Word Study

- The *Latin* root **-term-** means “limit, end, boundary.”
 - Interminably

Background – Alvarez’s Two Nationalities

- Rafael Trujillo was a brutal dictator who came to power in the Dominican Republic in 1930.
- He repressed human rights and ran the country as if it were his personal estate.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a result, a small but active opposition arose, Alvarez’s father among them• He and his family fled the country twice.• In 1960, the family returned to New York City.• Trujillo was assassinated in 1961, but Alvarez’s family remained in New York• Alvarez grew up in a city in which many nationalities thrived, including large numbers of Hispanics.• More than half a million Dominicans live in New York today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some of us who are native speakers, still struggle to appreciate the language.• How did you learn language? Repetition of sounds? Dr. Seuss, Brown Bear, Good Night Moon.• Memorizing movies when you were little.• What about learning a new language? Challenge yourself.
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The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

By James Thurber

Pg. 125-134



Before You Read

- **Character** – is a person or an animal who takes part in the action of a literary work.
- **Round character** – complex, showing many different qualities – revealing faults as well as virtues.
- **Flat character** – one-dimensional, showing a single trait
- **Dynamic Character** – develops, changes, and learns something during the course of the story
- **Static Character** – remains the same
- **Author’s Purpose** – main reason for writing
- **Reflect** – look back on a piece to determine the author’s purpose for relating the story.

Vocabulary

- **Distraught** – very troubles or confused
- **Insolent** – boldly disrespectful
- **Insinuatingly** – suggesting indirectly

About the Selection

- In “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” James Thurber creates a vivid image of an ineffectual person who cannot cope with the world around him.
- Feeling powerless and picked-on by everyone – from his wife to parking-lot attendants to anonymous passerby – Mitty retreats into a daydream world where he becomes dashing, powerful, and in control.
- Can truth change?
- What kind of character is Walter?
- Title – The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
 - What is so secret in this text?
 - His fantasy life?
- What does it mean to be alive?
- What’s Walter’s wife like?
- First Secret Life – WWI Fighter Pilot
- Second Secret Life – Surgeon
- How are overshoes a symbol for something? Shoe on top of another shoe.
- He can never remember what his wife tells him.
- What is the text really about?
 - As they get older people realize that they are less necessary
 - In his fantasy world he lives the life of a hero
 - We often wish to live a life different than the one that we want to live, more exciting, more value
- Mitty is stuck in a world we would call modernity.
- He is a character that does not evolve.

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- **Pandemonium** – any place or scene of wild disorder, noise, or confusion
- **Derisive** – showing contempt or ridicule
- **Inscrutable** – baffling; mysterious

Word Study

- The *Latin* suffix **-able** means “can or will” or “capable of being.”
 - Intractable

Background – Reality and Imagination

- Most scientists say that daydreams fill much the same function as dreams.
- Daydreams relate to what is bothering us or to what we want to be doing.
- In the past, scientists believed that daydreams were unnecessary and counterproductive because they draw our attention away from the matter at hand
- However, most scientists today suggest that daydreams are signs of a healthy psychological state.

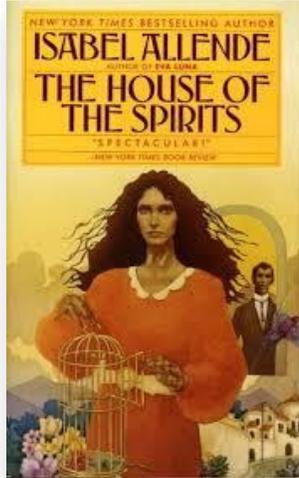
- He is complex in his fantasy life, he is static in real life.
- He has round qualities at the end when he shows a rebellious side.
- Cervantes – Don Quixote
- Gaming – in what way is gaming healthy and not healthy? A secret life?
- Is daydreaming healthy or not?
- Where would you rather be? Who would you rather be with?
- Why do you think Thurber did not want this text to be turned into a movie?

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Uncle Marcos

By Isabelle Allende

Pg. 136-148



Before You Read

- Character
- Author's Purpose

Vocabulary

- **Pallid** – pale
- **Impassive** – showing no emotion
- **Conspicuous** – attracting attention by being unexpected, unusual or outstanding
- **Disconsolately** – very unhappily
- **Pertinent** – relevant; to the point
- **Unrequited** – not returned or repaid

Word Study

- The *Latin* suffix **-ive** means “of, belonging to, or quality of.”

Background – Magical Realism

- Allende has political roots in Chile, her family fled to Venezuela
- This is an excerpt from *The House of the Spirits*
- The name “magical realism” shows the contrast on which this literary style

About the Selection

- In this excerpt from *The House of the Spirits*, Clara Del Valle recalls her eccentric Uncle Marcos.
- Laughed at by some, loved by many, Uncle Marcos impresses his community with his daring adventures in courtship, flight, rebirth, and clairvoyance.
- Through Clara's eyes, Uncle Marcos earns the renown he had gained only fitfully in his lifetime.
- The story conveys an important message about how individuals can be misjudged or underappreciated by some people but loved by others.
- Above all Clara remembers her Uncle Marcos from her childhood.
- Why is Marcos in a box in the courtyard?
- When Uncle Marcos shows up all the harmony in the family stops
 - Who is that in your family?
- What is your favorite thing about Uncle Marcos?
 - Sleeping in a loincloth
 - Teaching a parrot to speak
- Uncle Marcos is courting his cousin Atonieta
 - He stands outside her window and plays a barrel organ and plays music
 - She is only embarrassed
- She writes in such a way, that the reader has to smile
- Marcos is a round and complex character
- What is Marcos going to do next when he returns from his world travels?

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is based – it highlights and reveals magical occurrences in everyday life.

- Magic realism is style most readers associate with modern and contemporary Latin American writers but is an international style.
- Magic realists include Salman Rushdie, Milan Kundera, and a number of European and Eastern writers.

- A good writer always challenges the reader to ask “why”
- He has brought back an early form of an airplane
- He builds it where everyone can see, in the middle of town.
- Magical realism allows for miracles
- Allende has long paragraphs, her topic sentences are in the middle of her paragraphs (this is a style seen in Latin American texts – [Jose Saramago](#), [Gabriel Garcia Marquez](#))
- 3a – she plays the game of “who is the most famous explorer of all” – Odysseus
- Who is the greatest storyteller in your life? Are you a good storyteller?
- What is this story about?
 - A story about stories
 - Favorite crazy thing?
- What are possible messages/themes?
 - Storytelling is always fun.
 - Eccentric uncle
 - Sometimes the same person can embarrass some people yet entertain others.
 - Old men ought to be explorers.
- Dealing with a character who is clearly round and complex
 - Does he grow and evolve?
- Magical realism
 - What makes it fun?
 - It doesn't take itself too seriously.
 - Yet there is enough elements that are real, that you can easily relate to it.
- How do we relate to other texts?
 - The Odyssey
 - Favorite text about adventures?
 - What is your view about travel?
 - Who for you, what is your favorite story about someone in your family who has been

Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

	<p>adventurous? Who is your Uncle Marcos?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is Marcos linked to Mitty?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Both characters love adventures
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Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

If I Forget Thee, Oh Earth...

By Arthur C. Clarke

Pg. 160-166



Before You Read

- **Theme** – is the message or insight about life that is conveyed in a short story, a play, or another literary work.
- **Genre** – form
- **Nonfiction** – essays and articles
- **Central idea** – the meaning or insight
- **Fiction and poetry** – the theme is often implicit.

Vocabulary

- **Perennial** – happening over and over; perpetual

Background

- The title of “If I Forget Thee, Oh Earth...” draws on a quotation from Psalm 137: If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.
- This vow expresses the emotion of the ancient Hebrews, after they were forced into exile in Babylon in 597 b.c.
- The exiles in Arthur C. Clarke’s story are the humans who live on the moon, the only humans still alive after all human life on Earth was destroyed in a nuclear holocaust.

About the Selection

- Ten-year-old Marvin lives on a space station and is taken on a special trip by his father to the outside world.
- This trip is the first time Marvin has even ventured outside the station.
- His father brings him to a valley from which they can see an object in the sky.
- Marvin’s father tells his son that they are seeing the Earth, once home to humans but now a wasteland destroyed in a nuclear war.
- He wants Marvin to know what happened so the story can be passed on until the day that humans can once again set foot on Earth.
- Apocalyptic text – became popular during the 20th century
 - Mutually assured destruction
 - Humans would destroy the world
 - Industrial Revolution began with optimism
 - Nuclear War after WWII possibility
 - Cold War with Russia, threat of use of Nuclear weapons
 - Technology can be both a blessing and a curse
 - There will come a time in the future, the human species can no longer live and has to restart.
 - H.G. Wells *Time Machine* – people in the future had to live under the ground because the surface was uninhabitable.
- What is your favorite text
 - Wall-E

Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

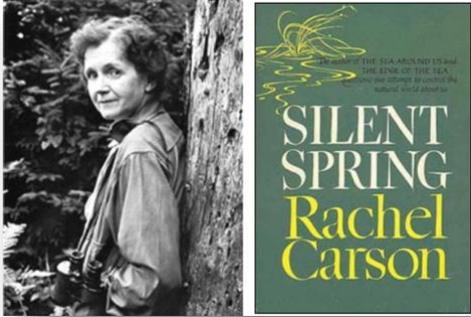
- Anthem
- By the Waters of Babylon
- The Matrix
- What is up with the title? Theme?
 - Clarke assumes that his readers know the stories from the Bible.
 - In 586, the Hebrews were sent into exile by the Babylonians
 - They wrote poems about this time.
 - Book of Psalms – request made by the Babylonians that they Hebrews sing the songs from back home, they say they can't because it makes them too sad.
- Exile – allusion to another text.
 - A text about home and being separated from home.
 - About trying to get back home.
- This a journey every generation takes to look at home.
- It's hard to survive if you don't have a reason.
- What is our heritage? That is what we are given, what we hold onto, what we can lose.
- What's the real theme?
 - We need to take care of the planet we live on.
 - We need to preserve it for future generations.
- Take care of the planet not for you, but future generations, what is the heritage/legacy that you leave?
- Global warming – why do people debate the existence? Cause?

Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

Silent Spring

By Rachel Carson

Pg. 167-170



Before You Read

- Comparing Themes

Vocabulary

- **Blight** – something that destroys or prevents growth
- **Maladies** - diseases
- **Moribund** – slowly dying

Background - Pesticides

- Pesticides are chemical compounds intended to destroy crop-eating insects.
- Pesticides can be lethal to many species besides the insects they are intended to kill.
- Partly because of the publication of *Silent Spring*, the United States began phasing out the pesticide DDT in 1970 and banned it entirely in 1972.
- Rachel Carson 1907-1964
- Like Arthur C. Clarke, Carson has a Science background
- Environmental activist
- Died of cancer before she witnessed the major impact of her book
- One of the most loved and revered writers in the environmental world, and the most hated.

About the Selection

- In this excerpt from the landmark book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson sounds a warning about how the indiscriminate use of pesticides threatens our environment.
- At the time Carson wrote, most people had little idea about the unintended harm of these chemicals. In the tradition of many writers who have a lesson to teach, Carson introduces her ideas in the form of a fable.
- What is the theme of this text? Major message?
- Compare this to “If I Forget Thee, Oh Earth...”
 - Similarities
- Hear Rachel Carson’s warning, how the use of pesticides effects the environment.
 - What helped the crops grow
 - Technology
 - This can affect other living things
- She introduces her story in the form of a fable
 - A story that is not true, but carries some sort of implication, there is a moral to the story
- Prophetic tradition – someone is going to tell us the implications for the future
- Greek Mythology – Cassandra
 - Stood outside the walls of Troy
 - She saw that the Greeks had not left
 - Burn the gift from the Greeks (Trojan Horse)

Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They broke their wall, pushed the horse in○ Troy was slaughtered that night○ She was given a blessing (always tells the truth, sees the future), curse (no one believes her)● Carson plays a game in her text<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Part one – story, once upon a time, amazing little town○ Heart – heartland, the Midwest, where they grow all the food. Heart denotes the center of what matters and makes you, pumps all the blood.○ Harmony – everything worked together.○ Why does she mention trees? Photosynthesis → air → life○ Why are birds so important: because of the pesticides from the farmers, we have the beginning of the end of all life, no birds chirp in the spring. The egg shells were so fragile that the new babies did not live● Themes/Messages<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We have to be intentional○ Crept – these things slowly happen○ Word choice of fable, however this could and did happen○ Any reader looks at the protentional of these things happening○ If some life can be destroyed then all life can● She knew she would say things that would upset● Examples of humans hurting their environment<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Flint, Michigan
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Unit 1 – Fiction and Nonfiction

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Dust Bowl during the Great Depression● Frankenstein – question about science and technology● Films/texts that suggest we take care of our world?● Do we think 4-5 generations ahead?● Enjoy life today? Previous generations made decisions for you, didn't they?
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