

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Table of Contents

<i>The Most Dangerous Game</i>	4
Before You Read	4
Vocabulary	4
Word Study.....	5
Background – Tests of Survival	5
About the Selection	4
<i>American History</i>	8
Before You Read	8
Vocabulary	8
Word Study.....	8
About the Author	8
Background – The Kennedy Assassination	8
About the Selection	8
<i>The Gift of the Magi</i>	11
Before You Read	11
Vocabulary	11
Word Study.....	12
About the Author	12
Background – The Value of Money	12
About the Selection	11
<i>The Interlopers</i>	13
Before You Read	13
Vocabulary	13
Word Study.....	13
About the Author	13
Background – Family Feuds	14
About the Selection	13
<i>The Man to Send Rain Clouds</i>	15
Before You Read	15
Vocabulary	15
About the Author	15
Background – History of the Pueblos	16
About the Selection	15

Unit 2 – Short Stories

<i>Old Man of the Temple</i>	17
Before You Read	17
Vocabulary	17
About the Author	17
Background – Universal Themes	17
About the Selection	17
<i>Rules of the Game</i>	19
Before You Read	19
Vocabulary	19
Word Study.....	20
About the Author	20
Background – The Game of Chess	20
About the Selection	19
<i>The Necklace</i>	23
Before You Read	23
Vocabulary	23
Word Study.....	23
About the Author	23
Background – European Society	24
About the Selection	23
<i>Blues Ain’t No Mockin Bird</i>	26
Before You Read	26
Vocabulary	26
Word Study.....	27
About the Author	27
Background – Hawks	27
About the Selection	26
<i>The Invalid’s Story</i>	29
Before You Read	29
Vocabulary	29
Word Study.....	29
About the Author	29
Background – Nineteenth-Century Train Travel	30
About the Selection	29
<i>The Scarlet Ibis</i>	31

Unit 2 – Short Stories

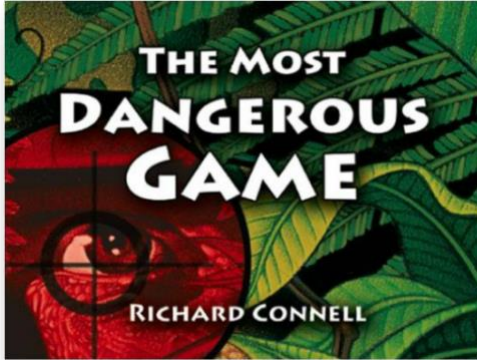
Before You Read	31
Vocabulary	31
About the Author	31
Background – The Ibis	31
About the Selection	31
<i>The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind</i>	33
Before You Read	33
Vocabulary	33
About the Author	33
Background – The Cold War	33
About the Selection	33

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Most Dangerous Game

By Richard Connell

Pg. 211-236



Before You Read

- **Conflict** – is a struggle between opposing forces.
- **External Conflict** – a character clashes with an outside force
- **Internal Conflict** – a character grapples with his or her own opposing feelings, beliefs, needs, or desires.
- **Resolution** – solution usually occurs near the end of the story
- **Epiphany** – sudden flash of insight
- **Inferences** – logical assumptions about information or ideas that are not directly stated in a piece of writing.

Vocabulary

- **Palpable** – able to be felt; easily perceived
- **Indolently** – lazily; idly
- **Naïve** – unsophisticated
- **Scruples** - misgivings
- **Grotesque** – having a strange, bizarre design; shocking or offensive
- **Futile** – useless; hopeless

About the Selection

- In addition to keeping readers on the edges of their seats, “The Most Dangerous Game” asks an important question about human nature:
 - Are human beings really civilized?
- The author contrasts Zaroff, whose style of living reflects highly cultured tastes but who hunts other human beings for sport, with Rainsford, who is horrified at the idea of taking a human life.
- However, when Rainsford is forced into the role of a “beast at bay,” the primitive side of his nature emerges.
- Is conflict necessary?
- De nous mas – falling action
- Big Game Hunting – when an individual hunts for taking animals that are difficult to hunt as trophies.
 - Animals are put on a scale
 - Competition – against yourself, the animal, other hunters.
- What is the most difficult animal to hunt?
- What happens in the story?
- What are the different types of conflict?
 - Man v. Man
 - Man v. Nature
 - Man v. Technology
 - Man v. Society
 - Man v. Himself
 - Man v. Fate/Supernatural
- Setting – boat, mansion on the island
- Ironies that are a constant part of the story

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Word Study

- The *Latin* suffix **-esque**, which form adjectives, means “in the style or manner of.”
 - Grotesque

Background – Tests of Survival

- One of the best-known of all big-game hunters was Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), president of the United States from 1901-1909.
- Though sickly as a child, Roosevelt became a vigorous outdoorsman.
- He traveled the world to hunt big game; on one year-long African safari, he shot nine lions, eight elephants, and thirteen rhinos.
- Today, governments carefully limit hunting to preserved animal populations and protect habitats.
- Roosevelt himself played a huge role in America’s conservation movement.
- As president, he set aside 194 million acres in the United States as protected land, doubled the number of national parks, and founded 51 wildlife reserves.
- The story was published in 1924, and the film [The Most Dangerous](#) game was released in 1932

- Man who became so bored hunting animals then hunted men
- However, men have reason
- To what degree is it fun for the animal to be hunted?
- We are going to have another conversation between the two men, what’s fair hunting?
- Who cares how an animal feels? However he becomes the hunted.
- The world is made of two classes
 - The hunted, and the hunter
 - Is Zaroff evil? What makes him evil?
- The waters of the Caribbean are described as blood warm
- Allusion to Odysseus – who wrecks on an island
- Great writers challenge the reader to ask “why” or “what’s going to happen next”
- What will make Zaroff want to hunt humans rather than jaguars?
 - Because they can think
 - The capacity for deduction
- Foreshadowing
- Zaroff is a Cossack – former Russian soldier
- Game can mean something you play, but also something you hunt
- Zaroff has swagger, he likes the fact that he almost died taking the cape buffalo
- This is common in Wyoming, but visiting people sometimes struggle to understand.
- The trophy is like a memorial to the hunt
- The ideal animal for Zaroff, Rainsford figures it out
- What makes killing one thing, and murder another?
- What is it that makes hunting right or wrong? Who says that it is wrong?

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- Might makes right? Strength – Plato’s *Republic*.
- What makes wrong, wrong? Why is it wrong? If the strong can hurt the weak, isn’t that nature?
- Where do you see the primary conflicts?
 - Internal
 - External
- Three parts
 - Rainsford is gets stuck on the island, and meets Zaroff
 - The hunt
- They have to hunt, he does not have a choice
- Rainsford – “I must keep my nerve”
- Cat and Mouse – hunter/huntee, strong/weak, Zaroff/Rainsford, Rainsford/jaguar
- Is it okay for the cat to kill the mouse?
- “I shall be back” – Terminator “I will be back”
- All the games where you have to hunt and get out of situations
- Rainsford now knew how an animal at bay felt – he is identifying with the jaguar
- What stories have a famous jump?
 - The Fugitive
 - Thelma and Louise
- Zaroff is bothered not by the loss of Ivan, but that he needs to replace him.
- Zaroff is reading Marcus Aurelius
 - “Soon, you will have forgotten all things, and all things will have forgotten you”
- Rainsford did not die, but awaits Zaroff in his room
- “I’m still a beast at bay”
 - The game was not finished, he will have to finish Zaroff
 - Beast = animal, at bay = trapped

Unit 2 – Short Stories

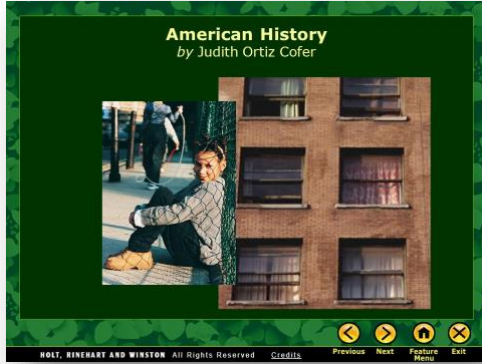
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The story lets us wonder who won, until they tell us Rainsford is sleeping in Zaroff's bed.• The game has been decided, or has it?• Messages/Themes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Story about ethics, morals, what's right and wrong• Example of external conflict<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rainsford v. himself• Character v. character<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rainsford v. Zaroff• Character v. Nature<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rainsford v. the island and the ocean• Favorite movie with a character that has to survive• "That which does not destroy me, makes me stronger"• Favorite game that is like "Most Dangerous Game"• Is it true that the world is divided into the hunter and the hunted?• Is it really three?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wolf, Sheep, and Sheep Dog (the defender)• Favorite part of the text?• Where is the climax? Depends on which conflict you are following.
--	---

Unit 2 – Short Stories

American History

By Judith Ortiz Cofer

Pg. 238-252



Before You Read

- Conflict

Vocabulary

- **Tenement** – apartment house, often run-down
- **Profound** – deep; intense
- **Discreet** – careful about one’s actions; prudent; keeping silent or preserving confidences
- **Vigilant** – watchful
- **Elation** – exultant joy or pride; high spirits
- **Dilapidated** – broken down

Word Study

- The *Latin* suffix **-ant** is often used to form adjectives. It usually means “performing an action.”
 - Vigilant

About the Author

- Raised in Puerto Rican culture and American culture.

Background – The Kennedy Assassination

- The shock of the Kennedy assassination appeared in the faces and behavior of Americans from all walks of life – from bus drivers to

About the Selection

- Pay attention to the title
- Conflict – epiphany
- Elena, a Puerto Rican girl living in a tenement in New Jersey, becomes friends with a boy named Eugene.
- Elena struggles to control her feelings of elation about Eugene, so different from the nation’s anguish on the day of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
- When Eugene’s mother turns her away at their doorstep, Elena experiences a personal sorrow more intense than her feelings about Kennedy.
- The author says things without saying things.
 - Things are to be understood by both the characters and the readers.
- We have two stories
 - The assassination of Kennedy is the story within the story
 - The normal lives of people who have to keep going.
- Setting – Patterson, NJ, mixed neighborhood (microcosm of America)
- Time – November 22, 1963 (Day that Kennedy was shot)
- Different elements of what it means to be an American, American is a melting pot.
 - America is a country with many different cultures that seek to cohabitate
- She wishes to be able to jump rope like the black girls.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Hollywood actors, from factory workers to university professors.

- Famous television news reporters cried on live television, and radio announcers found it difficult to speak.
- Schools and businesses were shut down, and the nation’s daily routines were suspended.
- The Kennedy White House had been considered by many to be an American “Camelot,” and Americans reacted as if an almost mythical leader such as King Arthur had been killed.
- The disturbing disruption of the ordered adult world is reflected in what the young narrator sees and hears in “American History.”

- This is a story about racism – hate without a real cause
- Eugene – white boy, introduced in the beginning, but we don’t meet him until later.
- Elena is defined as a watcher. She watches Eugene’s house from her apartment building.
- June – November, she gives us a sense of timing.
- Eugene is an honors student. Well educated and intelligent.
- Classes were blocked from her because English was her second language. However, she was a straight A student.
- America looks different today than it used to.
- Eugene is from Georgia – The South
- The building “El Building” a symbol for how the sunlight gets blocked, it represents the change in American History
- She engages in a life without anyone knowing what she is doing.
- The dream is to find a home, to go to college.
- After meeting Eugene, her goal is to meet and befriend him.
- “Skinny bones” and “The Hick”
- Different responses to the assassination
 - DePalma the P.E. Teacher cries and spits, he considers the students losers, they are of color and they do not care about American like he does.
 - Elena is more excited to hang out with Eugene than upset about the president.
- Rejection = epiphany
 - She felt shame going from El Building to Eugene’s
 - Her mother tells her she must show respect and go to church

Unit 2 – Short Stories

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mother says she is forgetting who she is.○ You are where you grow up○ “You People” – what does Eugene’s mother mean? The dividing line between us and them, colored and white○ You has a double meaning○ Elena is not allowed to speak to Eugene because of who she is.● At the end of the story it was a night of mourning<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Her parents, for the president○ She, for the friendship that will never be.● The roots of racism lie deep in the American history, family history, economic history● Have we evolved, have we changed● Inclusivity – include people● Exclusivity – us and them● Messages/themes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Different tragedies within a tragedy○ Clear difference between youth and adults○ Setting – you are where you live, until you can see beyond where you live.● We never see Eugene again.● How does she say it?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Saying without saying○ Implications – what does it mean to be American, who gets to tell history, what is the true history● What are great stories about racism, inclusivity?● What are your own views about America, what it means?● Do you think racism is natural? When you are children do you see color?● Combat racism with love
--	---

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Gift of the Magi

O. Henry
Pg. 257-266



Before You Read

- **Irony** – is a contradiction between appearance and reality – it is the difference between what is expected and what actually happens.
- **Situational Irony** – something happens in the story that contradicts the expectations of t a character or the reader.
- **Surprise Ending** – often presents a situational irony.
 - The turn of events may be startling, but writers using irony usually build clues into the story that make the ending logical, just the same.
- **Use Your Own Prior Knowledge and Experience** – as you learn, watch movies and plays, and observe the world every day, you gather knowledge and experiences.

Vocabulary

- **Instigates** – urges on; stirs up
- **Depreciate** – reduce in value
- **Cascade** – small steep waterfall; anything suggesting a waterfall
- **Faltered** – acted hesitantly; showed uncertainty

About the Selection

- “The Gift of the Magi” is a story of self-sacrificing love – and its ironic consequences.
- On Christmas Eve, Della Young decides to sell her beautiful knee-length brown hair to buy Jim a platinum chain for his prized gold watch.
- When he sees her hair, he stops dead in the doorway, then slowly gives her his Christmas gift – a set of ornamental combs for her hair.
- The title alludes to the wise men, or Magi , who brought gifts to the infant Jesus. (Gold, Frankincense, and Mir).
 - T.S. Eliot also refers to the journey of the Magi.
- Some say this is the greatest love story ever written.
- Exposition – time, place, and character
- Rising action – what will the Christmas present be for Della, but it focuses on Della who is trying to figure out what gift to get for Jim.
- What is the central conflict? Money
 - How do you come up with money at Christmas?
 - Internal conflict – she cuts off and sells her prized hair for her husband’s gift.
- Climax – he sold his watch for combs for her hair.
 - Situational irony – we know more than the characters
 - She hopes that he will still think she is pretty.
- Dénouement – Falling Action
- Allusion – references to biblical texts
 - King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- **Prudence** – a sensible and careful attitude that makes you avoid some risks
- **Discreet** – careful about what one says or does.

Word Study

- The *Latin* prefix **de-** has various meanings, including “down.”
 - Depreciate

About the Author

- Real name was William Sydney Porter
- Was a reporter for the *Houston Post*.
- Involved in a bank scandal and served time in prison.
- One of America’s most celebrated writers of short fiction.
- [O. Henry Award](#)

Background – The Value of Money

- Explain to students that in this story to present-day prices, they will have to multiply them by anywhere from 10 to 100.
- The story is set in New York City about 1905.
- In that time and place, a newspaper cost from 1 ¢ to 3 ¢, and a ride on the brand-new subway cost 5 ¢.
- In 2005, the daily New York Times cost \$1, and the subway fare was \$2.
- The monthly rent of many one-room Manhattan apartments was close to 50 times more than \$32 Jim and Della pay.

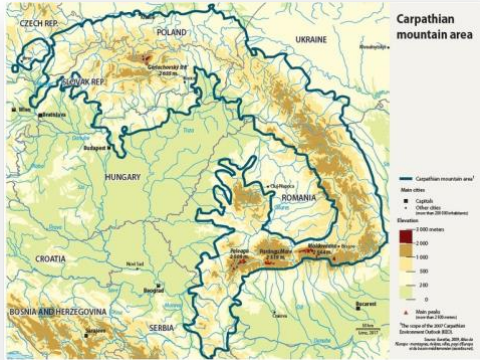
- Distinction between love and lust
 - Desire – for stuff, for sex
- Sacrifice
- The two gifts cancel out each other
- She is happy for the gift even though she can’t use them
- Faith, hope, and charity – three Christian
- Themes/Messages
 - Gift of love and sacrifice
 - Irony
- Magi story from the bible is the main connection
- A time when you got something for someone, sacrificed for it, made you feel good about it.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Interlopers

By Saki

Pg. 268-278



Before You Read

- Irony

Vocabulary

- **Precipitous** – agreed quietly without protest or enthusiasm
- **Acquiesced** – agreed quietly without protest or enthusiasm
- **Feud** – a long and violent quarrel, especially between clans or families, often characterized by killing
- **Disputed** – contested; argued about
- **Condolences** – expressions of sympathy with another in grief
- **Interlopers** – people who intrude or meddle in other peoples’ business or lives

Word Study

- The *Latin* prefix **inter-** means “between”
 - Interlopers

About the Author

- British writer H.H. Munro
- Born in Burma and moved to England at 2
- Returned to Burma as a young man to work as a journalist

About the Selection

- “The Interlopers” shows that a feud not only fuels feelings of hatred and bitterness, but also has the power to destroy feuding parties.
- The story begins at the climax of a generations-long feud, as two of the antagonists find themselves face to face in the forest.
- As they are about to destroy each other, a tree crashes down and traps them.
- During the time they are trapped, they agree to reconcile.
- As the story ends, however, it appears that their decision has come too late.
- Why is this story called “The Interlopers”
 - 3a – Hatfields and McCoys
 - Romeo and Juliet
 - History of stories, Homer’s Iliad, fighting at the walls of Troy
- 3 generational feud
- There is justice – both men are trapped, this is a story about justice, you get what you deserve.
- Question of determinism - a question if you believe in fate or chance

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- Enlisted in WWI and died in battle in France.

Background – Family Feuds

- The feud between the Hatfields, who lived on the West Virginia side of a stream that divides West Virginia and Kentucky, and the McCoys who lived on the Kentucky side, has fascinated the public since the 1880s.
- It has passed into legend as the bloodiest disagreement among neighbors in American history.
- Bad feelings had existed between the families since the Civil War, but it was a legal dispute over two hogs that led to the first shootings in 1878.
- Perhaps the climax of the feud came in 1888, when at least six people were killed, including one young McCoy woman and the Hatfield man convicted and executed for her murder.
- The two family patriarchs who began the feud lived to great old age.

- Do you buy the notion that he can change his mind? Do you think that both parties resolve conflicts different when faced with their own deaths?
- Messages/Themes
 - People who resolve violence with violence, end in violence
 - Were you surprised by the word “wolves”
 - What is ironic about the fact that when the men finally are harmonious, the wolves show up?
- Favorite game/Movie
 - Enemies become friends – is it death?
- A time when you became friends with an enemy because you needed each other.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Man to Send Rain Clouds

By Leslie Marmon Silko

Pg. 290-297



Before You Read

- **Setting** – the time and place in which a story occurs.
 - **Cultural Aspects of Setting:**
 - Values and beliefs
 - Daily life such as work food, or clothing
 - Types of language and slang
 - Themes and issues from a historical period
- **Cultural Perspectives** – distinct point of view, or attitude, toward the cultural setting of a story.

Vocabulary

- **Penetrated** – broke through
- **Perverse** – deviating from what is considered right

About the Author

- Learned oral tradition from grandparents.
- From New Mexico

About the Selection

- In “The Man to Send Rain Clouds,” the death of an elderly Native American, Teofilo, serves as backdrop to illuminate the actions, reactions, and interactions of the living.
- Although characters lead their lives according to centuries-old cultural rules and beliefs, these customs have been modified by outside influences.
- The funeral rites for Teofilo demonstrate how combining Native American and Christian traditions can create an enriching and redefining experience.
- How do Native Americans treat someone when they die? How do Catholic Christians? What are the rules?
- Silko is asking a question about how can two conflicting cultures co-habitate?
- The setting is the Southwestern Desert.
- Father Paul is a young priest – malleable
- How many times is the old man referred to as shriveled and shrunken?
- What they do to the old man in his bed is the funeral.
- Misunderstanding of cultures going both ways
 - Holy Water is so that he won’t be thirsty
- Leon is uncomfortable at the church
- “It wasn’t necessary father” – they know what he needs
- The same act of the sprinkling water is interpreted different ways.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- Interested in tension of traditional values of Native Americans and living in a post-modern world.

Background – History of the Pueblos

- “The Man to Send Rainclouds” explores the traditions of the Pueblo people of the southwestern United States.
- The Pueblos have lived in the southwestern United States for nearly 2,000 years.
- They first came into contact with Europeans when the Spanish arrived in the 1500s.
- In modern times, the Pueblos have incorporated many aspects of the industrial world into their traditional lives.
- There are many Pueblo peoples, including the Hopi, Zuni, and Taos, who speak differing languages yet share a common heritage.

- Motives are never expressed for Father Paul.
- Title “The Man to Send Rain Clouds”
- Legacy – importance of passing down traditions
- Messages/Themes
 - Respect for cultural traditions – they make us who we are
 - America is a mix of so many different cultures living together.
 - Youth/Old Age
 - Understanding between the two that lead to hope – Cultural and the young to old relationships
- Why is setting so important? This story requires geography and culture.
- What is the central conflict?
 - Internal vs. External
- What are the texts that come to mind regarding cultural differences, burials,
 - Iliad, Inferno
- What is your cultural heritage of life and death.
 - Birthdays, funerals
- What for you is a way you predict you will go through the process of a funeral? How will your body be treated?

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Old Man of the Temple

By R. K. Narayan

Pg. 298-304



Before You Read

- Setting
- Cultural Perspective

Vocabulary

- **Venture** – as risky action

About the Author

- From Southern India
- Career spanned over 70 years.
- Wrote 15 novels
- Works combine Western plots and themes with Indian subject matter

Background – Universal Themes

- Most of Narayan’s stories take place in the fictional town of Malgudi.
- While Malgudi is a distinctly southern Indian place, the tales that Narayan tells about it are universal.
- If the backdrop of Narayan’s tales changed to a modern American town, the characters’ struggles, plans, hopes, and dreams would still apply.
- It is his universal appeal to human experience that makes Narayan’s writing so special.

About the Selection

- In “Old Man of the Temple,” the Talkative Man describes a long-ago encounter with the ghost of an old man.
- The ghost has temporarily taken over the body of the Talkative Man’s driver, Doss.
- The Talkative Man helps the ghost find its way to a permanent departure.
- The story explores timeless themes: people’s inability to let go of the past.
- Eschatology – What happens when you die?
 - Nothing, you become worms meet
 - Linear - You live, you die, and then there is a punishment or reward in the afterlife
 - Cyclical – you live, you die, you are reincarnated (born again in another form)
 - Physical Body vs. Metaphysical (soul)
- In the history of the world which one of these is the most popular?
- Story within a story
- Notion of time
- Ghost story
- Symbolism – one thing representing something else.
- The dilapidated temple – it is no longer important in the culture.
- Nobody cares anymore, people are becoming less godly
- Our ghost was killed by robbers
- Karma – whatever it is you did in this life, you are punished in the next
- The ghost lived a good life, but he was still wandering.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

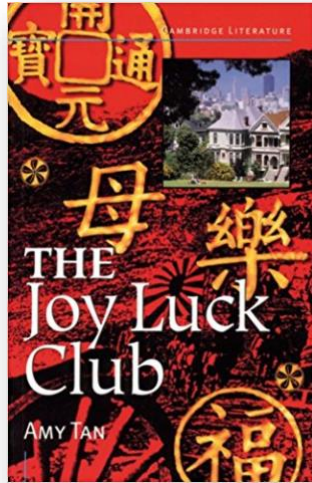
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduces the notion of cultural differences because of age (young vs. old) Generation gap• Idea that people believe different things, at different times, within the same culture.• Love in the end will always find its way back to the thing it loves.• What is the central conflict?• People don't care the way they once did?• The symbol of the temple – says that people forget the most important things in a culture, they do not respect it• The relationship between this story and “Old Man to Send Rainclouds”<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The ways of the old must be respected• Texts that reflect youth and the elderly• How can you relate to this?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Do you believe in ghosts?○ What do you believe about the afterlife?○ Time you showed proper respect to the old and the traditions?
--	--

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Rules of the Game

By Amy Tan

Pg. 313-328



About the Selection

- “Rules of the Game” focuses on the relationship between a mother who was born and raised in China and her daughter, born in America.
- As the girl succeeds as a chess champion, the two class over their generational and cultural differences, but behind these conflicts are their similarities: pride, intelligence and stubbornness.
- Conflict –
 - Psychological Conflict
 - Sociological Conflict
- Title – what does it mean?
- This text can be difficult and inaccessible to many readers
 - You have to know chess
 - Sixteen is a significant number for chess
 - If you have never been to Chinatown (New York City, San Francisco, etc...) you wouldn't know that children playing in the alley is completely acceptable
- Does Waverly's mother remind you of someone you know?
 - The setting leads the reader to the mother
- Story not only about playing games, but learning the rules of the game
- Proud Chinese mother, we understand torture because “we live torture” we work harder than anyone else.
- Mother indicates to her daughter that she will have an uphill battle in life.
 - Nothing will be handed to Waverly

Before You Read

- **Character** – is a person, an animal, or even an object that participates in the action and experiences the events of a literary work.
- **Characterization** -
 - **Direct Characterization** – the writer (speaking through a narrator) simply tells readers about a character.
 - **Indirect Characterization** – the writer gives clues to a character by presenting the character's actions, words, and thoughts and by showing how others react to the character.
- **Cause** – is an event, action, or feeling that produces a result.
- **Effect** – is the result produced.

Vocabulary

- **Pungent** – producing a sharp smell
- **Benevolently** – in a well-meaning way
- **Retort** – sharp or clever reply

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- **Prodigy** – person who is amazingly talented or intelligent, especially a child of unusual genius.
- **Malodorous** – having a bad smell
- **Concessions** – things given or granted as privileges.

Word Study

- The *Latin* root **-bene-** means “well”
 - Benevolently

About the Author

- Parents emigrated from China
- The wanted her to be a doctor
- Explored themes ethnicity and being a female Chinese American woman.

Background – The Game of Chess

- The game of chess was originally known as chaturanga, a name that referred to the four divisions of the Indian army of the sixth century:
 - Elephants
 - Horses
 - Chariots
 - Foot soldiers
- During the Middle Ages, games of chess became part of courtship rituals between knights and ladies.

- Chess is thought to be a man’s game, it would be uncommon for a girl to play it.
- It’s intuitive if you know the rules, often rules do not make sense, they were made before you came along.
- Power and Rules
- Why the repetition of words such as: I learned,
 - You have to practice and repeat to get good at chess.
 - A game of secrets, show and not tell
- When was the last time, you knew you were good at something, no one needed to compliment you, it transcended?
- The mother is never content
- Chess without question is the most competitive sport in the world, followed very seriously
- Chess players who are top ranked, get money from sponsorship and from their winnings
- “Searching for Bobby Fischer” – a film about the young chess prodigy
- Parents who live through their children’s athletic abilities
 - Proud parents embarrass their children with their showing of pride.
- When was the first time you remember being embarrassed by the people who raised you?
- Life itself is like a game of chess
- Why is the mother so proud of her daughter?
 - It makes them look better
- “What you say?”
 - **Exegesis** – what is said and what is intended?
 - **Conflict** – does Mai Mai tell her mother what she really means, or does she realize that

Unit 2 – Short Stories

	<p>she is offending her mother and changes her meaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simile – shining yellow light like two tiger’s eyes, mother’s eyes become two black slits.• The silence speaks louder than words from the mother.• Why does Mai Mai run, because she knew she had lost the game with her mother.• Unlike earlier in the story when she sat there swinging her legs, now she has creaking legs from not moving (thinking).• How does it work that the lights in the house look like tiger eyes.• The brother is pleased that the sister is finally the one to get in trouble.• Again, mother speaks to everyone but her (silence is louder than words again, silent treatment)• Why does the silent treatment work?• Do you really want the adults in your life to be honest with you?• In this culture, the mother is the matriarch• For this mother, the winning at chess was family affair.• Is it the case that the actions of you, are the actions of your family?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Are you an extension of the people who raised you?• She lost the game to her mother• In chess, the stronger takes the black, the weaker player takes the white pieces• Major messages/themes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This is a story about family○ Guys v. girls○ Escape• Symbols<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chess board○ Chess pieces• Stories take time and patience
--	--

Unit 2 – Short Stories

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is for you, your favorite story of parents vs. kids?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Movies about kids and how they have to get a long with their parents. Rebel without a Cause○ Favorite song of authority and parents with kids○ Sophocles○ Twisted Sister – We're not going to take it• What is it like to know your parents are telling you something that you don't agree with?• When was the last time that you didn't pass up the time to not speak, but you didn't do it, and it backfired.
--	---

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Necklace

By Guy de Maupassant

Pg. 330-342



Before You Read

- Characterization

Vocabulary

- **Rueful** – feeling sorrow or regret
- **Resplendent** – shining brightly
- **Dejection** – lowness of spirits; depression
- **Fortitude** – the strength to bear misfortune and pain
- **Disheveled** – untidy
- **Profoundly** – deeply

Word Study

- The *Latin* root **-jec(t)** means “to throw.”

About the Author

- Lived in Paris
- One of the best-known short-story writers in the world.
- Realistic, pessimistic, surprise endings
 - Pessimistic – gloomy, cynical, doubtful
- Served in the army

About the Selection

- In “The Necklace,” Madame Loisel loses a borrowed diamond necklace to go to a party.
- The replacement necklace takes her and her husband ten years of hard work to pay off.
- After they have done so, Madame Loisel learns that the original was a fake.
- What is the central conflict of this story?
- Dark irony
 - The necklace was worth Half a million dollars
 - When Loisel finds out how much the necklace is worth, why doesn’t she ask for it back?
- The notion of wanting something you can’t have.
- This is a story about an error in fate
- Determinism vs. Free Will

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Background – European Society

- During the nineteenth century, the old social order in Europe changed.
 - Previously, society had been divided into two main classes
 - Nobles, who owned land
 - Peasants, who farmed it
 - However, as industry spread, a new middle class emerged, and people could rise – or sink – in social position.
 - Some sought to own material goods as a mark of higher social standing.
 - The fictional Monsieur and Madame Loisel in “The Necklace” represent the bourgeoisie, or middle class – the social class between the working class and the very wealthy in nineteenth-century France.
 - These characters are ordinary, middle-class people, with no inherited position or wealth.
 - They live on M. Loisel’s salary from his government job.
 - The word bourgeois has come to mean conventional or ordinary, respectable, but unimaginative, and, sometimes, selfishly materialistic.
- **Determinism** is the philosophical theory that all events, including moral choices, are completely determined by previously existing causes.
 - Do you have freedom in your life to make the choices that you make?
 - King Lear – nothing comes from nothing
 - Conflict –
 - character vs. character – M. Loisel vs. her husband, she was demanding of him
 - character vs. self – when other people are making fun of you because of how you dressed?
 - She needs to make a show to hide who she really is... the expensive brands, the expensive items (phones, watches, cars, etc...)
 - She doesn’t want to be seen with her coat on.
 - Why do the Loisel’s not just tell that they lost the necklace
 - They would have to admit that they couldn’t pay it back
 - The loathsome work
 - Physically the woman is altered, she has been aged
 - Financially she is changed
 - She’s no longer the person she once was.
 - Repetition of the word “still”
 - When you don’t work, you don’t age as quickly
 - Themes/messages
 - Tragic story, given up whole life for nothing
 - She learned an important message, she became a well-rounded and better person
 - Fate – never fair

Unit 2 – Short Stories

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Characterization• Surprise ending – it shocks the reader as it shocks Madame Loisel.• Othello – strangles his wife because he is convinced that his wife was cheating on him, however she was not and died for nothing.• What is in your life your greatest screw up? But you didn't mean to.• Does status matter to you?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ How you dress, the people you hang out with?○ Pretending to be someone they are not.
--	--

Unit 2 – Short Stories

Blues Ain't No Mockin Bird

By Toni Cade Bambara

Pg. 347-358



Before You Read

- **Dialogue** – a conversation between or among characters in a literary work.
 - Not always identified by quotation marks, sometimes italics, sometimes a new paragraph.
- **Tone** – the writer’s attitude toward his or her subject and audience.
- **Dialect** – a way of speaking that is common to people of a region or group.
 - Mark Twain is known for writing in dialect (*Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn*)
- **Cause** – an event, and action, or a feeling that produces a result.
- **Effect** – the result produced
- Visualize the action to analyze cause and effect

Vocabulary

- **Ladle** – long-handled, cuplike spoon for dipping out liquids
- **Raggedy** – raggedy – torn and in bad condition
- **Stalks** – stalks – walks in a stiff, haughty, or grim manner
- **Formality** – attention to established rules or customs

About the Selection

- Bambara’s story explores the issues of family dignity and the right to privacy.
- When photographers come to gather footage for a documentary about the county food stamp campaign, the Cains take action.
- Why would the title of this story be “Blues Ain’t...” when the only bird in the story is a hawk?
- The writing of this text elicits the blues – type of music that came from the south to the north that talked about the emancipation of the slave.
- Blues, like rap, is about contest
- Dialect is evident in the title, the dialect must be appreciated to understand the story.
- This family is being filmed without ever having been asked.
- Grandpa is covered in blood from killing a hawk. He then kills a second hawk effortlessly.
- The camera is opened exposing the film, ruining it.
- The African American family does not want to be filmed by the white journalists
- Finally the cameramen back off
- Storytelling –
 - Granny – strong, defiant
 - Granddaddy Cain – Cain and Abel (the first murder in the bible, Cain was cursed after killing his brother to represent violence)
- Do you have an old timer – they can be a little curmudgeonly, they don’t care about manners any more.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- **Reckless** – careless; rash
- **Reels** – frames or spools on which thread, wire, tape, film, or a net is wound.

Word Study

- The *Latin* suffix **-ity** forms nouns from adjectives. It means “the quality of showing a certain characteristic.”

About the Author

- Social activist
- Writing echoes the concern for the condition of African Americans.

Background – Hawks

- Even though most hawks are more useful to people than they are harmful, people are still sometimes intolerant of them.
- Hawks feed on rodents that can damage a farmer’s crops.
- They usually find their prey while circling high above the ground.
- They swoop down, grab their prey with powerful talons, and kill it with their strong, pointed beaks.

- Subtle critique of the press
 - Is the press good for a democracy, or bad for a democracy
 - Does this technology make us less human?
 - Voyeuristic society
 - This is a story about invasion of privacy
- Making a video about food stamps
- Comparable to Goldie Locks, invasion of privacy
- Granddaddy defends his family
- Messages/Themes
 - Text has multiple levels
 - Issues of territory and rights of privacy
 - Fortitude of the old
 - Racial overtones – the cameramen do not respect the culture, they are there to critique the culture
 - Not what is said, but how
 - Why does Bambara switch from past to present tense, to show immediacy
 - How does dialect make the story more real?
 - Layering of story up on story.
- Connect to other titles
 - Powerful examples of female characters – “Rules of the Game”
 - Strong men and women who teach the young by good and strong example
 - To Kill a Mockingbird
 - Critique yourself and your society – are you concerned about people wanting to know and following you online
 - Does the press exacerbate?
 - Why are so many people angry at the press?

Unit 2 – Short Stories

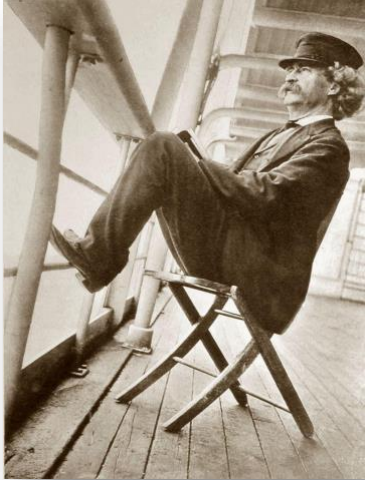
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Are you defined by the tv you watch, the news sources you use?
--	--

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Invalid's Story

By Mark Twain

Pg. 360-370



About the Selection

- Death permeates Mark Twain's comic story in a very physical way.
- The narrator tells the story of the train trip he takes to bring the body of his newly deceased friend to his final resting place.
- The narrator and railway expressman suffer intolerably from what they believe is the odor of the decomposing corpse.
- They struggle in a foul-smelling railway express car to maintain an unbearable and, as it happens, unnecessary vigil over a dead body, according to the parameters and conventions of civilized society.
- The vigil is unnecessary because the coffin has been mistakenly replaced by a box of guns, and the foul smell is coming from a bag of [Limburger cheese](#). (*very stinky!*)
- What is the conflict/struggle in the story
- Twain is going to say something about the human condition without saying it
- Written in the first-person point of view.
- The smell is personified
- What is the worse smell you have ever smelled?
- Stuck in a situation that you can't get out of.
- We often define ourselves by our misunderstandings, our mistakes.
- This is supposed to be funny, situational irony, yet at the end the man's health is destroyed.

Before You Read

- Dialect

Vocabulary

- **Prodigious** – enormous
- **Deleterious** – harmful to health or well-being
- **Ominous** – threatening
- **Judicious** – showing good judgement
- **Placidly** – calmly; quietly
- **Desultory** – random

Word Study

- The *Latin* suffix **-ous** (or **-ious** or **-uous**) forms adjectives. It means “like” or “pertaining to”
- Ominous

About the Author

- Often considered America's greatest writer
- Real name was Samuel Clemens changed at 27
- *Huck Finn* is considered to be one of the greatest novels written

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- Twain always considered himself a comic

Background – Nineteenth-Century Train Travel

- Mark Twain wrote this story in 1877, during the American railroad’s Golden Age, when trains were the dominant form of transportation for both people and products.
- Twelve years earlier – on May 10, 1869 – the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroad lines had been connected in Promontory, Utah.
- The transcontinental railroad was a monumental achievement of engineering that changed America.
- It involved the laying of 1,777 miles of track through forests and mountains and across rivers and deserts.
- What had once been a six-month journey across the nation could now be completed in six days.

- A time in your life, when you thought you were doing the right thing?
- A time when you totally screwed it up?
- Can you look back and laugh at yourself.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Scarlet Ibis

By James Hurst

Pg. 382-395



Before You Read

- **Symbol** – is a person or thing that represents both itself and a
- **Symbolism** – is the use of symbols to convey ideas.
- **Allegory** – is a story or poem in which every element has parallel literal and symbolic meanings. (*one of the oldest forms of writing in the western tradition*)

Vocabulary

- **Imminent** – likely to happen
- **Infallibility** – condition of not being likely to fail
- **Precariously** - insecurely

About the Author

- James Hurst – lived to be 91 years
- Grew up in North Carolina
- Worked at a number of diverse jobs.

Background – The Ibis

- Altogether, there are about twenty species of ibis.
- This long-legged water bird is related to the heron, crane, and stork.
- Ibises eat plants, small shellfish, and mollusks.
- Ancient Egyptians worshiped the sacred ibis of Northern Africa, a relative of the scarlet ibis of this story.

About the Selection

- “The Scarlet Ibis” reveals that cruelty and selfishness can be entwined with love.
- Motivated by pride and self-interest, the narrator helps his disabled brother learn to walk and swim.
- Not satisfied, the narrator pushes for more.
- Only later does the narrator realize the depth of his feelings to his brother.
- What is the central conflict/struggle?
 - Internal or External?
- Story about family, brothers, naturally builds off of the oldest stories.
 - [Cain and Abel](#)
- Brother Doodle = fragile
- He has to take care of his brother
- Doodle can appreciate beauty early.
- What do the birds represent?
- He learns to appreciate his brother, but first is embarrassed by him.
- What motivates us to want to learn stuff?
- Phoenix bird from mythology
- It looked like it was a really good thing, but he only did it so his brother wouldn’t embarrass him.
- In turn, the boys become friends.
- Doodle cannot handle the intense training his brother gives to him, and does not survive
- Two things occur continuously throughout the story
 - Scarlett = red
 - Ibis – bird
- What motivates your learning?
- If Doodle was treated like an invalid, he would be treated like an invalid.

Unit 2 – Short Stories

- The father discovers that his corn/crop was destroyed and curses at the sky.
- Doodle – what’s so wrong with being different?
- The dead ibis under the tree is a symbol for Doodle,
 - Not just a physical similarity
 - Beautiful even in its death
- On the earth like a broken vase of flowers – knowing how the story ends, when it is dead, it loses its beauty.
- Narrator could not respect what Doodle was when he was alive, only after he was gone.
- Doodle represents a Saint.
- Dead Birds = Bad Luck
- Why write **this** story?
- Brilliant red = scarlet
- We often understand that we have destroyed something fragile, but only after we have destroyed it.
- Messages/Themes
 - We should appreciate the people in our lives who is different
 - Ibis is a symbol for Doodle
 - Storms, Rain Falling
- Primary conflict
 - Internal – the narrator not realizing how precious his brother was until he was gone.
 - External – Doodle vs. brother, father screaming at the heavens, character vs. idea or society
- Text that relates most to this? The power of appreciating the beautiful simple things in life?
- Why do we destroy the thing we value the most?
- What was the last time you destroyed something beautiful because you couldn’t appreciate it?

Unit 2 – Short Stories

The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind

By Ray Bradbury

Pg. 396-400



Before You Read

- Symbolism and Allegory

Vocabulary

- **Ravenous** – wildly hungry
- **Spurn** – reject with contempt or disdain

About the Author

- Famous for *Fahrenheit 451*
- Died in 2012, at the age of 92
- Great prophet of the 20th century

Background – The Cold War

- The Cold War is called “cold” because no direct military combat was involved.
- The Cold War was a standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union, which were the only great powers in the world at the end of World War II.

About the Selection

- “The Golden Kite, the Silver Wind” is a fable that highlights the negative consequences when competition is the only form of interaction.
- On a literal level, the story is about two rival towns that construct ever more complex walls to empower and protect themselves.
- On a symbolic level, it symbolizes the behaviors of nations or groups that, from fear or arrogance, build up their defenses rather than resolve their differences.
- This story is a fable/allegory
- What is the central conflict of the text?
- How does a text like this relate to World events that are happening right now in your own life?
- Two towns who are in conflict with each other
 - When you see the other as dangerous/foreign, it only damages yourself.
- Complimentary understanding
- Different kinds of shapes are understood
- Death/poverty personified
- We are always concerned about one event means to the future
- See the future by reading the present moment
- It’s the daughter who stands behind the curtain, the voice of reason
- You can only have this kind of success where there is competition, the victory is short lived

Unit 2 – Short Stories

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trying to defend themselves over and over again, leads to them being weaker.• What do the flying kites mean?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Symbiosis○ Conflict resolution can only work with cooperation/collaboration• What is the primary message here about conflict/resolution?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To find ways to work together?• Sometimes when you start one-upping, the one thing you think you are securing, is not secure it all• Power of allegory• Favorite text that says we need to figure out how to come together?• When do you figure out, that not conflict but resolution is the easiest way.• Why is it the textbook company paired this with <i>The Scarlet Ibis</i>?
--	---