

## FIRST QUARTER

### WEEK ONE

#### Day 1

Survey the reading textbook, *World Literature*, a Catholic high school literature textbook. Read the Introduction, and skim through the text. Read the Table of Contents. Notice the questions at the end of each reading selection. You will be assigned some of these.

Look through this course manual. Read the Introduction to this course manual to understand the meaning and purpose of this course. Following the Introduction, read about the Book Analyses in the Handbook in the back of this course manual. These books are available from Seton's SEM department.

You may begin reading the Book Analysis book at any time. The Book Analysis is due at the end of the quarter. In this quarter, you may choose *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Pinocchio*, or *The Betrothed*. Chapter notes for all these books are available on the Seton website under Course Resources for World Literature. From these notes, you can more easily choose which book you want to read. Read your Book Analysis book in the evenings or on the weekend, not during class time.

Look through the Handbook at the back of this course manual. Read over the sections to see how the information will be of help to you as you proceed.

Look at the section of Answer Keys at the end of this course manual. There are two separate answer keys: a Course Manual Answer Key and a Textbook Answer Key. The Course Manual Answer Key contains answers for all questions presented in this manual. The Textbook Answer Key contains answers for "Helps for Study," "Class Discussion," "Quick Quiz," and "Aids for Appreciation."

The questions you will answer after each literary selection are designed to assist you in the learning process. After you have provided your answer for a question, look at the answer key. Use the answer key as a resource. The home grades for the quizzes should be put in Section A on the Quarter Report Form.

Online lectures. Miss Sharon Higby has provided weekly online lectures for the reading selections. You can look over what is available by going to [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org). Click on My Seton, then Log on. Then click on Courses, then scroll down to World Literature. Move your cursor to the right, then click on the icon which says "Listen to Audio Lectures."

Miss Higby has also provided Chapter Notes for the Book Analysis selections.

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**Day 2**

Read the introduction (the italicized text that precedes the story) and the selection “A Retrieved Reformation” by O. Henry on pp. 1 - 5. O. Henry was the pen name, or pseudonym, for William Sydney Porter.

The text provides definitions for many words in the stories. Other words that may need clarification are listed in this course manual as *Words Defined* as we proceed through the reading selections. Notice the ones below.

**Words Defined:**

- p. 1 *stir* – prison (slang)  
*villainously* – clothes do not fit Jimmy well, yet they are the clothes that are appropriate for a villain
- p. 2 *hard drinks* – drinks of alcohol: vodka, bourbon  
*confederates* – associates in an illegal act  
*mail hack* – mail carriage
- p. 3 *livery buggy* – horse carriage

On-Line: Listen to the lecture for World Literature, Week One, on the My Seton web site [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org) While listening to the lecture, it is suggested that you take notes.

**Day 3**

Reread “A Retrieved Reformation,” pp. 1 - 5.

Do “Helps for Study,” p. 6. \* (Whenever this symbol \* appears in this course manual, it indicates that answers for the questions are contained in the Textbook Answer Key Section in the back of this manual. Remember, there are two sections to the Answer Key; the answers for “Helps for Study” are located in the Textbook Answer Key.) Answer the Class Discussion questions as assigned for each selection. Check the answers contained in the Textbook Answer Key.

*Study Suggestion:* When you finish reading a literary piece in this course, there are questions both in the textbook and in this manual to help you to understand the content and purpose of each selection. First, read the question. Then, think of your answer and write it in your notebook or on the computer. If necessary, look back at the reading selection to find the answer. The next step is to check your answer with the answer key in the back of this manual. The answer key is meant to be a support to further understand the literature. Remember that all answers for all exercises should be reviewed for study prior to taking the tests.

**Day 4**

Answer the following Discussion Questions about “A Retrieved Reformation” in a notebook, on the computer, or orally on a recorder.

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Answers for the questions are contained in the Course Manual Answer Key Section in the back of this manual. Check your answers with the key. Many of the answers to the Discussion Questions provide more information than you may have in your response. Make sure that you have the same idea as the key, and then use the key as a resource to expand your knowledge on the question. The Answer Key is designed to teach you important information about the literature being studied.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does this story help illustrate the Christian proverb that “where there is life, there is hope”?
2. We are all human beings before we are businessmen, carpenters, engineers, nurses, or police officers. How does Ben Price show that his humanity—his conscience and his heart—prevail over his functions as a detective?
3. How does the story also show that Jimmy Valentine’s humanity prevails over every other consideration as he opens the vault with the tools in his suitcase?

Choose a book for your Book Analysis from the three titles for this quarter.

Remember to budget your time so that your Book Analysis is finished by the end of the quarter. Consider reading your book about 45 minutes per day; you might want to schedule a chapter a day or every other day.

Read the biographical sketch of O. Henry on pp. 5 - 6. Always read the biographical sketch for authors in the text. Read more about him in the encyclopedia. Considered the master of the American short story, O. Henry wrote popular tales which often appear on television.

**Day 5**

Today, answer the questions below about “Retrieved Reformation” that will lead you to identify the theme of this story. (Check your answers with the Course Manual Answer Key in the back of this manual.)

**Theme:**

- A. Who is the main character?
- B. Does this character change in the story?

A *motif* is a recurring idea or topic that is an essential element of the theme. It is usually a simple, even single word concept, such as love, nature, or the struggles of poverty. A motif can be an object that reappears frequently in a story. By understanding that object’s role, the reader can understand some

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concept within the story. A motif by itself does not give any insight into life or human nature; it is only a topic that can help the reader identify a theme in the story.

C. Can you identify a motif in the story?

In all good stories, the motivating factors result in **conflicts** of some sort. There are four basic categories into which all conflicts fall:

**man versus man:** For example: Robin Hood versus King John. Even if the conflict is one person versus two people, it is still a *man versus man conflict*.

**man versus self:** For example: In the *Wizard of Oz*, the Cowardly Lion versus himself. He fights an inner battle with himself, thinking he needs to find courage.

**man versus nature:** For example: a fisherman in his boat versus a storm at sea. In this course, the definition of nature is expanded beyond weather conditions to include external events such as disease, hunger, thirst, and impersonal forces such as time.

**man versus society:** For example: Henry VIII versus the Catholic Church; Society means any group of people who share common ideas, customs, and institutions, such as an ethnic group, religious group, fellow employees, fellow soldiers, or fellow students.

There are often two or more conflicts present in a story. It is probable that any story containing a man versus society conflict will also involve a man versus man conflict, since society is made up of men. One conflict, however, usually stands out as being more important than the rest. That is the main conflict.

D. What is the main conflict in “Retrieved Reformation”?

Jimmy’s decision to save the life of Agatha by using his skills to break into the safe is the climax of the story. The **climax** of a conflict is the point at which the conflict reaches its highest point of intensity. It is the turning point of the story.

E. What is the consequence of the climax for Jimmy? Does he learn anything?

F. In this story, is the author generally optimistic or pessimistic about life?

A **theme** is either the main idea or a major idea that the author is trying to get across or convey to the reader. It is a general insight about life or human nature that can be drawn from plot, characters, and symbols in a literary work. It usually indicates an important point about the author’s philosophy of life. A theme usually is found throughout the book and is made concrete by characters and how they react to the conflicts.

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Note that the theme is not a plot summary. An example of a plot summary: The book *Lilies of the Field* is about the struggle of a black man to build a church for a group of nuns.

Note that the theme is not a topic or motif. There is a difference between the theme and the topic. An example of the topic of *Lilies of the Field* is faith.

The theme is not necessarily a moral. It can be a moral lesson, but more often it is a general statement about life or human nature. The theme has moral suggestions or effects, but it is not usually something so simple as “never give up.”

Examine the following facts.

*Character change:* Jimmy falls in love and reforms his life.

*Motif:* Reform

*Consequence of the climax:* Since Jimmy makes the decision to save the life of Agatha by using his skills to break into the safe, he reveals his expertise as a bank thief, realizes that he will go to jail for earlier crimes and will lose Annabel.

*Author’s approach to life:* O. Henry is optimistic because in this story, there is hope for change in the life of a criminal who thinks more about someone else than what he thinks about himself.

G. Based on these facts, how would you state the theme of this story?

Suggestion: Upon completion of each literary selection, create a chart that lists the 1) title, 2) author, 3) dates when the author lived & died, 4) main character or characters, 5) type of literature (short story, poem, etc.), 6) brief summary, 7) the main conflict, 8) the motif, and 9) theme.

## **WEEK TWO**

**Don’t forget to keep reading the book for the First Quarter Book Analysis: *Around the World in Eighty Days*, or *Pinocchio*, or *The Betrothed*. Read your book in the evenings or on the weekend, not during class time.**

### **Day 1**

Read “The Maid of Orleans, Joan of Arc,” by Boleslaus Lukaszewski, S.J., on pp. 7 - 11. It is important that you read the introduction, the italicized copy that precedes each of the literature selections throughout this course.