A SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE FOR TESOL. PART II--THE SHORT STORY, DRAMA, POETRY.

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Table of Contents

Charles Carpenter Fries, 1887-1967.......................... 3

Spoken-English Lessons for Spanish-Speaking
Migrant Farm Workers........................................ Sarah Hall Goodwin 4

Contrastive Rhetoric and the Teaching
of Composition................................................ Robert B. Kaplan 10

Teaching the Present Perfect Tenses........................... Ralph H. Walker 17

Testing Foreign-Language Function in Children............. John A. Upshur 31

The LCT, Language-Cognition Test (Research Edition)—
A Test for Educationally Disadvantaged
School Beginners.............................................. Anne O. Stemmler 35

On Defining the Objectives of a Short-Term
Training Program: Grammar................................... Russell N. Campbell 44

The Miami Experience in English for the Foreign
Born: The Adult Cuban Refugee Program................. Don E. Williams 50

A Selected Annotated Bibliography of American
Literature for TESOL: Part II—The Short
Story, Drama, Poetry........................................ Arna S. Harris and Allan C. Harris 53

Reviews............................................................. 63

Announcements.................................................. 69

Publications Received.......................................... 72
A Selected Annotated Bibliography of American Literature for TESOL

Part II—The Short Story, Drama, Poetry*

Five kinds of information are provided about each work: (1) the chronological period of the work, (2) the geographic area in which the work is set, (3) the type of life described, (4) the social stratification, and (5) the major themes or points to be emphasized within the work.

Each work has been assigned to a level according to the difficulty of vocabulary usage as signified by the following classifications: (A) low intermediate level (approximately 100-750 words), (B) intermediate level (approximately 1000-2000 words), (C) high intermediate level (approximately 2000-3000 words), (D) low advanced level (approximately 3000-4000 words), and (E) advanced level (approximately 4000 words or more). No attempt has been made to assess the relative maturity of the reader in relation to the work. The teacher will have to decide what his students are capable of comprehending in terms of social, political, and economic sophistication.

This bibliography is by no means definitive. Our intention has been only to whet the appetite, to provide a basis. It is our earnest hope that others will continue, expand, and adjust our modest beginnings.

**THE SHORT STORY**


"Memorandum"—1) 1920's-early 1930's; 2) Deep South; 3) small town life; 4) (?) hunting; a boy's life.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris are instructors in the Department of English at Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel. Mr. Harris has published articles in English Language Forum and English Language Teaching.

Anna S. Harris and Allan C. Harris

* Part I—The Novel was published in the last issue of TESOL Quarterly (September, 1967).

* These classifications also try to take into consideration difficulties which may be considered "grammatical" or "structural" although, admittedly, this has been subjectively done, and no real claim for accurate classification as to level of structural difficulty is made.

* We must acknowledge the assistance of Miss Carol Rosenfield who was responsible for many of the summaries (since revised and expanded). Thanks must go to Dr. Virginia French Allen for her criticism and advice.

** If the entire collection is not described, only the short stories considered suitable within a collection are listed and annotated.

53
town life; 4) middle class; 5) character study; crisis between friends.

“Joe Craddock’s Old Woman”—1) 1920’s-early 1930’s; 2) Deep South; 3) farm life; 4) lower class; 5) description of farmwife’s hard and miserable life; social ironies.

“Dorothy”—1) 1920’s-early 1930’s; 2) Atlanta, Georgia; 3) urban life; 4) lower class; 5) description of unemployment; personal relationship between a young man and a young woman.

“The Rumor”—1) 1920’s-early 1930’s; 2) New England; 3) life in a summer resort; 4) middle class; 5) character study of male vacationers in a summer resort town.

“Ten Thousand Blueberry Crates”—1) 1920’s-early 1930’s; 2) New England; 3) rural setting; 4) middle and upper-middle class; 5) description of small, private enterprise—lumber mill.

“Priming the Well”—1) 1920’s-early 1930’s; 2) Maine; 3) farm life; 4) farmers; 5) illustrates rivalry between a Southern family and Yankees; familial relationships; weather conditions.

“The Corduroy Pants”—1) 1920’s-early 1930’s; 2) New England; 3) farm life; 4) farmers; 5) description of two Yankee characters.

We Are the Living. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1933. (D-E)

“Yellow Girl”—1) 1920’s-1930’s; 2) Georgia; 3) farm life; 4) middle class; 5) tensions between races; superstition and myth.

“The Grass Fire”—1) 1920’s-1930’s; 2) New England; 3) farm life; 4) farmers; 5) character study of a Yankee farmer; farm activities: burning of a hayfield, replanting.

“Country Full of Swedes”—1) 1920’s-1930’s; 2) Maine; 3) farm life; 4) Yankee and immigrant farmers; 5) tensions between Swedish-American farmers and Maine farm couple; character study of a hired man.


“The Sculptor’s Funeral”—1) early 20th century; 2) Kansas; 3) town life; 4) all classes; 5) description of small Kansas town.

“A Death in the Desert”—1) early 20th century; 2) Cheyenne, Wyoming; 3) life in a small city; 4) composer and singer; 5) description of a barren life with comparisons to the barrenness of Wyoming.

“A Wagner Matinee”—1) early 20th century; 2) Boston and Nebraska frontier; 3) musician turned homesteader; 4) middle class; 5) description of two worlds: Boston and the Nebraska frontier.

Clemens, Samuel L. The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Stories and Sketches. London: Chatto and Windus, 1925. (D-E)

“My Military Campaign”—1) ca. 1860; 2) Missouri; 3) first few months of Civil War; 4) all classes; 5) early months of the war; various types of men who joined the army; views of Southern life.


“Traveling with a Reformer”—1) early 20th century; 2) on a train travelling from Boston to Chicago; 3) travelling by train; 4) all classes; 5) relationships between people travelling on a train in America.


“A Horse’s Tale”—1) late 19th-century 20th century; 2) West; 3) frontier life on an army post; 4) soldiers, officers, and their families; 5) story of a little girl and relationships with soldiers and Indians; life on an army post.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Hunting the Deceitful Turkey&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) 19th century; 2) someplace in the U.S.; 3) hunting turkeys; 4) middle-lower class; 5) hunting turkeys and other small animals; episode in boy's life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The McWilliamses and the Burglar Alarm&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) late 19th or early 20th century; 2) the Northeast; 3) rural setting; 4) middle class; 5) life of a family, revolving around the burglar alarm they put in their home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Father Wakes Up the Village&quot;</td>
<td>Clarence Day</td>
<td>See Part I of the bibliography: Day, Clarence. Life with Father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Catbird Seat&quot;</td>
<td>James Thurber</td>
<td>1) 20th century; 2) New York City; 3) white-collar executives; 4) middle and upper-middle classes; 5) description of New York office workers and their peculiarities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Man Who Shot Snapping Turtles&quot;</td>
<td>Edmond Wilson</td>
<td>1) 20th century; 2) Pennsylvania; 3) small town life; 4) middle class businessmen; 5) the evils inherent in the American business ethic; the powers of advertising.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Standard of Living&quot;</td>
<td>Dorothy Parker</td>
<td>1) 20th century; 2) New York City; 3) secretaries in a city; 4) lower-middle class; 5) ambitions and desires of secretaries in a big city; some description of the city itself.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Money-Diggers&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) early 18th century; 2) Manhattan Island; 3) life of the Dutch settlers; 4) description of poverty in a large city.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) late 19th century; 2) Texas; 3) small town life in the &quot;Wild West&quot;; 4) all classes; 5) description of &quot;Wild West&quot; characters; tensions between townspeople and marshall's city bride.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Blue Hotel&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) late 19th century; 2) Nebraska; 3) town life; 4) all classes; 5) character sketches of hotelmen, cowboy, Easterner, professional gambler against background of a hotel, a saloon, and a blizzard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Open Boat&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) 1896; 2) off south Atlantic coast; 3) shipwreck; 4) lower and middle classes; 5) description of the sea and plight of four survivors in a small boat through a newspaper correspondent's eyes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Men in the Storm&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) late 19th century; 2) New York City; 3) city life; 4) lower class; 5) description of poverty in a large city.</td>
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4) all classes; 5) familial relationships; life of the Dutch settlers; pirates and digging for buried treasure.

"The Story of Rip Van Winkle"—
1) mid-18th century; 2) Catskill Mountains; 3) village life; 4) villagers; 5) village life and customs; some history and geography.

"The Cracked Looking-Glass"—1) early 20th century; 2) Connecticut; 3) rural setting, farm life; 4) lower-middle class—Irish immigrants; 5) relationship of husband and wife, neighbors ("native" and "foreigner"); life in new world as opposed to that in the old country.

"The Jilting of Granny Weatherall"—1) early 20th century; 2) someplace in the U.S.; 3) the country—farm life; 4) middle class; 5) familial relationships; past life of the grandmother.

"The Downward Path to Wisdom"—1) sometime in the 20th century; 2) (?) ; 3) home; grandmother's home and school seen through the eyes of a four-year old boy; 4) children of middle class family; 5) conflicts within a child as he becomes aware of world around him.

"A Day's Work"—1) during and after the depression—1936; 2) city in the U.S.; 3) city life; 4) lower class Irish immigrants; 5) plight of a man who has lost his job in the depression; strength of wife in a time of great stress.

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"He"—1) 20th century; 2) South; 3) rural setting, farm life; 4) lower class; 5) familial relationships and general life.

"The Last Leaf"—1) 1900-1903; 2) Texas; 3 Negro farm workers; 4) lower class Negro servants; 5) old Negro’s desires for freedom, rest, and solitude; white family’s surprise that an ex-slave and apparently contented member of their family should have these desires.

"The Grave"—1) 1903; 2) southwest Texas; 3) farm life; hunting; 4) children, 5) relationship between brother and younger sister; child's attitudes toward birth, life, and death of animals.

"The Source"—1) 1900; 2) South—Texas; 3) Southern farm life; 4) Negro farm workers, elderly white woman who is the farm owner; 5) relationship between Negro workers and white owners; farm life.

"A Blackjack Bargainer"—1) late 19th century; 2) Blue Ridge Mountains; 3) rural setting, vil-
BIBLIOGRAPHY

lage life; 4) all classes; 5) life in general; relationships of the villagers and mountain folk.

“The Gift of the Magi”—1) late 19th-early 20th century; 2) New York City; 3) city life; 4) lower-middle class; 5) relationship of young married couple; Christmas customs.

“The Romance of a Busy Broker”—1) late 19th-early 20th century; 2) New York City; 3) business life; 4) stock broker and his office personnel—middle and lower classes; 5) life of a stock broker in New York City.


“Just before the War with the Eskimos”—1) 1940’s; 2) New York; 3) (?) ; 4) (?) ; 5) relationship between fifteen-year-old girl friends and with their older brothers.

“The Laughing Man”—1) late 1940’s; 2) New York City; 3) boys’ club life; 4) poor club leader and his group of young boys; 5) relationship between boys and leader, leader and girlfriend.


1) 1920’s-1930’s; 2) West Coast; 3) city life; rural life; 4) primarily those of American heritage—the unemployed, lower and middle classes; 5) relationships; various aspects of life during the depression.

The following stories are suitable:

“Among the Lost”
“And Man”
“Fight Your Own War”
“Harry”
“Seventeen”
“Seventy Thousand Assyrians”
“The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze”
“The Man with the French Post Cards”


“The Girls in Their Summer Dresses”—1) 1940’s; 2) New York City; 3) city life; 4) middle class; 5) discord between married couple on Sunday walk in New York City.

“Main Currents of American Thought”—1) 1930’s; 2) Brooklyn, New York; 3) city life; 4) lower-middle class; 5) young man versus family ties.

“Strawberry Ice Cream Soda”—1) 1940’s; 2) New York State; 3) vacation time in Adirondack Mountains; 4) middle class; 5) boys on a summer vacation; summer resort life.

“God on Friday Night”—1) 1940’s; 2) Bronx, New York; 3) city life; 4) middle class; 5) Jewish mother-son relationship; traditional values and customs reasserting themselves in times of stress.

“Night, Birth and Opinion”—1) World War II; 2) New York City; 3) city life; 4) immigrants; 5) character study of Irish, German, and Italian Americans; solidarity of American people despite diversity of origins and opinions.

“Little Henry Irving”—1) 1940’s; 2) Connecticut; 3) prep school life; family life; 4) upper-middle class; 5) childhood; family life; reasons for middle class delinquency.

“Preach on the Dusty Roads”—1) 1940’s; 2) New York City; 3) family life; 4) middle class businessman; 5) conflicts when son leaves for war; father-son relationship.


“Blackberry Winter”—1) early 20th century; 2) Tennessee; 3) rural life; 4) middle class Tennessee country people, whites and Negroes; 5) life and thoughts of a nine-year-old boy on a Tennessee farm.

“When the Light Gets Green”—1) 1910’s; 2) Tennessee; 3) farm life; 4) farmer; 5) a man’s mem-
ories of his grandfather, a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. “The Patented Gate and the Mean Hamburger”—1) early 20th century; 2) Tennessee; 3) small farm town and farm life; 4) all classes, especially farm people; 5) what it means to a Tennessee farmer to give up the farm he has sacrificed thirty years of his life to own; description of inhabitants of a small town.

“The Love of Elsie Barton: A Chronicle”—1) 1890’s-1930’s; 2) Tennessee; 3) small town life; 4) middle class; 5) life of a small town woman.

“Testament of Flood” (continuation of above story)—1) 1890’s-1930’s; 2) Tennessee; 3) small town life; 4) middle class; 5) attitudes of a teenage boy; courtship customs.

“The Life and Work of Professor Roy Millen”—1) 1930’s; 2) (?); 3) university life; 4) university people; 5) conflict between aging, widowed professor and bright, well-to-do student.

“The Unvexed Isles”—1) 1930’s; 2) Illinois; 3) university life; 4) university people; 5) professor’s jealousy and resentment of wealthy student, and his dissatisfaction with his own life and marriage.

“Prime Leaf”—1) 1907; 2) Tennessee; 3) farm life; 4) tobacco farmers; 5) conflict between tobacco farmers and tobacco price-fixing association.


“Death of a Travelling Salesman”—1) 20th century; 2) Mississippi; 3) rural setting; 4) lower class white couple and a travelling salesman; 5) life in general; personal relationships and values.

to redeem the honor of his falsely-accused and condemned father.

Barry, Philip. *The Joyous Season*. New York: Samuel French, 1935. (D) 1) early 20th century; 2) Boston; 3) city and rural life; 4) upper class family, their servants, a sister who becomes a nun; 5) familial relationships, especially revolving around Christmas.

---. *White Wings*. New York: Samuel French, 1928. (E) 1) 1895, 1907, 1915; 2) an American city; 3) city life; 4) lower and middle classes; 5) personal relationships; advent of automobile, the replacement of horse-drawn carriages, and the subsequent removal of the street cleaners.


Hellman, Lillian. *Another Part of the Forest*. New York: Viking Press, 1947. (D) 1) 1860-after the Civil War; 2) South; 3) social maneuvering in attempting to get to the "top"; 4) upper class; 5) familial relationships and family loyalty.

---. *The Little Foxes*. New York: Random House, 1939. (D) 1) 1830's; 2) the South—a small Alabama town; 3) decline of the power of Southern aristocracy and rise of the new social class; 4) upper class which is degenerate; 5) family caught in a period of change and transition.

---. *The Searching Wind*. New York: Viking Press, 1944. (D) 1) 1944 with use of flashbacks to 1922-1938; 2) Washington; 3) diplomatic and social life during World War II; 4) American diplomats; 5) familial relationships, revolving around American policies during World War II.


Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee. *Inherit the Wind*. New York: Random House, 1955. (D) 1) 1920's; 2) a small town in the South; 3) small town life; 4) middle and lower classes; 5) the trial of a young teacher who is accused of teaching Darwin's theories of evolution and reactions of people to the trial; life in a small Southern town. (The play is based on the famous Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee.)

Miller, Arthur. *All My Sons*, in *Arthur Miller's Collected Plays*. New York: Viking Press, 1957. (E) 1) August, late 1940's; 2) an American town; 3) life on the outskirts of the town; 4) middle class; 5) relationships: familial, neighbors; general town life. (A conflict in a family whose son had died during the war, and whose father had manufactured defective airplane parts, resulting in many deaths during the war.)

---. *Death of a Salesman*, in *Arthur Miller's Collected Plays*. New York: Viking Press, 1957. (D) 1) late 1940's with use of flashbacks within the period; 2) New York City (Brooklyn) and Boston, but mainly the former; 3) city life of a salesman and his family; 4) middle and lower-middle classes; 5) familial relationships; transitions in life of a salesman as a young and ambitious man, and as an old and worn man.

---. *The Crucible*, in *Arthur Miller's Collected Plays*. New York: Viking Press, 1957. (D) 1) Spring 1692; 2) Salem, Massachusetts; 3) rural setting; town life; 4) all classes—Puritans; 5) description of the Puritans' way of life; personal and communal relationships, etc.; history (based on the famous witch hunts and trials in Salem).
Rice, Elmer. *Street Scene*. New York: Samuel French, 1929. (D)
1) 1920's; 2) one block of New York slums; 3) typical day in the lives of the inhabitants; 4) various elements of New York's varied population—Jewish, Irish, Filipino, German; 5) slum conditions; an analysis of psychological differences between racial types.

1) 1930's; 2) San Francisco bar; 3) scenes in a waterfront "honky tonk"; 4) lower class elements: bartender, prostitute, policeman, longshoreman; 5) insights into this class of people.

1) 1830-1861; 2) New Salem and Springfield, Illinois; 3) rural setting, town life; 4) all classes; 5) communal relationships; history; life of Lincoln in Illinois from 1830-1861.


POETRY *

Benet, Rosemary and Stephen Vincent. *A Book of Americans*. New York: Farrar and Rinehart Inc., 1933. (D-E) 1) 16C's-1900's; 2) the United States; 3) biographical sketches of great figures; 4) all classes; 5) illustrates major events and periods in American history through the lives of America's great personages.

* If the entire collection is not described, only the poems considered suitable within a collection are listed and annotated.
farmers and hands; 5) code of behavior on part of farmer and his men; activities of haying.

"The Death of the Hired Man"—1) early 20th century; 2) New England; 3) rural setting, farm life; 4) farm couple and hired man; 5) roles, attitudes, and personal characteristics.

"Two Tramps in Mud Time"—1) 20th century; 2) New England; 3) rural; 4) farmers (lower and middle classes); 5) the activity of chopping wood; personal characteristics; climate and its relative effects on life.

Lindsay, Vachel. Collected Poems. New York: Macmillan Co., 1941. (D)

"Bryan, Bryan, Bryan, Bryan"—1) 1896; 2) Illinois; 3) rural setting; 4) all classes; 5) history; life at time of the presidential campaign of 1896.

"In Praise of Johnny Appleseed"—1) 1775-1847; 2) mainly in the western part of the U.S.A.; 3) rural-early America; 4) Indians, all classes; 5) personification of historical occurrence; an American legend.

"The Proud Farmer"—1) 18th century; 2) Indiana; 3) farm life in the new state; 4) farmers, all classes; 5) settling and tilling of land by the early farmers; history.


"Frescoes from Mr. Rockefeller's City..."—
Part 2—Wildwest: 1) 19th century; 2) West; 3) "Wild West"; 4) Indians and soldiers; 5) "Custer's last stand"; Empire Builders, i.e. the white man, versus the Indian; history.

Part 3—Burying Ground by the Ties: 1) 19th century; 2) West (?); 3) rural setting; 4) all classes, but especially the foreign-born American worker who lays the railroad ties; 5) laying of railroad ties; life of the laborers and supervisors; history.

Part 5—The Empire Builders: 1) 18th and 20th centuries; 2) the West, the Stock Exchange; 3) rural west before settlers, and the city; 4) explorers, upper class; 5) history: the makers of America—the 18th century versus the 20th century (those of the latter period have forgotten that those of the former are the real builders of America).

"The Farm"—1) 1750, 1800, 1871, 1923; 2) New England; 3) farm life; 4) farmers; 5) familial relationships.

"The Pot of Earth"—
Part 1—The Sowing of the Dead Corn: 1) 20th century; 2) U.S.A.—by the sea, floods (New England?); 3) rural; 4) all classes; 5) spring floods and planting; life in general.

Part 2—The Shallow Grass: 1) 20th century; 2) U.S.A. (New England?); 3) rural setting, town life; 4) middle class (?); 5) early summer through winter—relationship of a bride and groom; role of a woman; planting of crops and gardens.


"A Couple"—1) 1920's; 2) Cincinnati; Burlington; 3) city life; 4) middle class; 5) typical American couple.

"Omaha"—1) early 20th century; 2) Omaha, Nebraska, and environs; 3) rural setting; farm life; 4) farmers and lower class; 5) description of farm life; life in the shanties.

"Pennsylvania"—1) early 20th century; 2) Pennsylvania; 3) rural and mining life; 4) middle class and miners; 5) description of town life and life of miners.

"She Opens the Barn Door Every Morning"—1) 1920's; 2) some-
place in America; 3) farm life; 4) farmer's wife; 5) chores of the farmwife.

"The Old Flagman"—1) 1920's; 2) midwest; 3) rural(?), city(?); 4) lower-middle class; 5) old flagman—his life, past and present.


"Snow-Bound"—1) early 19th century; 2) Massachusetts; 3) rural setting, farm life in winter; 4) farmer's family, schoolmaster—Quakers; 5) life of family when isolated by heavy snow.

"Songs of Labor"—1) mid-19th century; 2) New England; 3) city, town, rural, fishing, farming life; 4) working class; 5) seven short poems, each about a various occupation: the working life of New England before industrial change ended some of these forms of labor.