

SECOND EDITION

American Short Stories

Exercises in Reading and Writing



"A Curious Dream"
Mark Twain

"The Black Cat"
Edgar Allan Poe

"Rip Van Winkle"
Washington Irving

"The Gift of the Magi"
O. Henry

"The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky"
Stephen Crane

"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"
Ambrose Bierce

"The Fat of the Land"
Anzia Yezierska

"South of the Slot"
Jack London

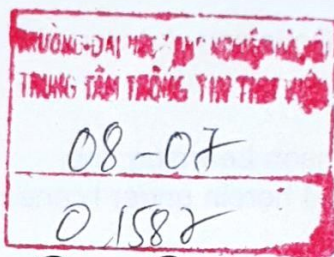
"The Only Rose"
Sarah Orne Jewett

Greg Costa

American Short Stories

Exercises in Reading and Writing

SECOND EDITION



Greg Costa

City College of San Francisco

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Exercises in Reading and Writing
Second Edition
Greg Costa

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Preface

I have adapted the nine stories in this book, these small treasures of American culture and history, so they can be shared with advanced learners of English—students still learning accuracy in reading and writing their second language.

The stories have been adapted to feature specific points of grammar in a meaningful context. Verb tenses, sentence patterns, and word forms are discussed and practiced in extensive exercises following each story. All the language in the grammar exercises comes from the stories, and each story uses the grammatical structures taught in the exercises.

While the purpose of the book is to increase a student's reading and writing skills, the stories and the American context in which they were written are so interesting that everyone should enjoy reading *American Short Stories*. Rich characters, clear plots and conflicts, and surprising resolutions make these stories entertaining to all readers, even those with limited English-language skills.

As students are talking, reading, and writing about the interesting American topics central to these stories, they will be practicing troublesome grammatical structures and learning to write accurately.

The second edition has been expanded and revised in several ways:

- Three new stories have been added. *American Short Stories* now contains enough fiction for most intermediate reading classes.
- New pre-reading sections introduce the author and the historical background of each story. Students are encouraged to make predictions and anticipate what they are going to read.
- Maps and graphs illustrate the history and development of the United States at the time each story was written. Exercises help students learn how to interpret the information.
- New reading exercises help students learn to analyze text for meaning, to break down fiction into more easily understandable parts.

Students who read *American Short Stories* will sharpen vocabulary skills and become better readers. They will learn to enjoy reading fiction as they are introduced to basic concepts of literary analysis and the rich heritage of American literature. They should gain a general understanding of how the United States began, grew, and developed into a modern industrial nation, and they should learn something of America's peoples and their struggles.

American Short Stories will prove to be both enjoyable and profitable to all who read it.

Greg Costa
San Francisco, California

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