

LightUnit 1104 Overview

Writing Short Stories

Section 1 Techniques of Story Writing

1. Narration

After a quick review of plot, characters, setting, and theme, this lesson focuses on telling the story.

2. Pointers for Narration

Includes a short story, "German Potato Salad," as a good example of narration

3. Writing a Narration

Students get to try their hand at writing a story.

4. Quiz 1

Section 2 More Techniques of Story Writing

5. Description

Emphasizes paying attention to details and choosing words that convey the desired tone; includes a short story, "Shadows!" which is mostly description

6. Practicing Description

Students get the opportunity to practice descriptive writing, both objective and slanted.

7. Dialogue

Emphasizes effective use of dialogue; includes a short story, "They That Are Sick," which is entirely dialogue

8. Writing a Short Story

Students get the opportunity to put to practice what they have learned about narration, description, and dialogue.

9. Quiz 2

Section 3 Short Stories in American Literature

10. "A Man Who Had No Eyes"

This short story by MacKinlay Kantor shows the results of differing responses to tragedy.

11. "A Slave Among Slaves"

Booker T. Washington describes the effects of slavery on slaves and their owners.

12. "The Great Carbuncle"

Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story explores the values of various views of life.

13. "Catherine and the Winter Wheat"

In this short story by P. B. Hughes, several characters learn important lessons about integrity and life.

14. "After Twenty Years"

This story with a typical O. Henry ending illustrates the effects of a person's choices on his future.

Writing Assignments From LA 1104 for You to Check

Lesson 2

No. 7: Write a short narrative. Take an incident from the Bible and in your own words tell what happened.

Lesson 3

No. 10: Narrate some incident in your past. Remember to follow the guidelines for good narration.

Lesson 6

No. 11: Write two descriptions of one of the subjects below. First write an objective, factual description. Then describe the same thing, slanting your description to create a particular mood. Label the first *Objective* and the second *Slanted*, and at the end of the second description, tell what mood you were trying to convey.

Lesson 7

No. 17: Write some dialogue without using credits or narration. (Hint: visualize your speakers as they exchange comments.)

Lesson 8

“Now that you have studied narration, description, and dialogue, write a short story. You may choose an account from the Bible or from your own life, or you may write a fictional story. Review the guidelines for narration, description, and dialogue before you begin.”

Books You May Want to Have Available

Sections 1 and 2

The Christian Short Story,* Ruth K. Hobbs

*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary** or another good dictionary

Secrets of Successful Writing,* Scott

CLE's *English Handbook**

The Elements of Style,* Strunk and White

Section 3

Booker T. Washington's autobiography, *Up From Slavery*

Other short stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Other O. Henry short stories

LightUnit 1105 Overview

Writing Poetry

Section 1 Understanding Poetry

1. Meaning and Cadence
A definition of poetry, with examples from the Bible
2. Design
A discussion of rhyme and rhythm, including poetic feet and meter
3. Free Verse
What it is, why it can be harder to write, dangers in it; pattern poetry
4. Quiz 1

Section 2 Writing Song Lyrics

5. History of Hymn Writing
Psalms, early church writers, Reformation writers, and modern writers; the deterioration of modern hymnody
6. The Popular Gospel
A discussion of the problems with many modern Christian songs
7. Hymns of Faith
The characteristics of sound Christian hymns
8. Writing a Song
9. Quiz 2

Section 3 Poetry in American Literature

10. Early Poets
Anne Bradstreet: "Upon the Burning of Our House"; Edward Taylor: "Upon What Base?"
11. Poets of Renown: Bryant and Whittier
William Cullen Bryant: "The Hurricane"; John Greenleaf Whittier: Excerpt from "Snow-Bound"
12. Poets of Renown: Poe and Longfellow
Edgar Allen Poe: "The Bells"; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Nature"
13. Poets of Change
Walt Whitman: "As Toilsome I Wander'd Virginia's Woods"; Emily Dickinson: "To Make a Prairie," "Success Is Counted Sweetest"; Edwin Markham: "The Man With the Hoe"; Sara Teasdale: "Barter"
14. Later Poets
Robert Frost: "Mending Wall"; Carl Sandburg: "Fog"; John H. Wheelock: "Earth"; Countee Cullen: "Any Human to Another"; Conrad Aiken: "One Star Fell and Another"
15. Self Check

Writing Assignments From LA 1105 for You to Check

Lesson 1

No. 14: Read Psalm 150 to your class (or you may choose another poem in your teacher prefers). Try to read it expressively. Ask your classmates to jot down the things they remember about your poem. Then discuss the merits of the poem you read.

Lesson 2

No. 20: (Optional exercise) Write a limerick. You may use the opening line given or write one of our own.

Lesson 7

No. 8: (Optional Assignment) Do a study based on hymns. Chose one of these topics and use hymns as your only source (as you might normally use your Bible).

“The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Believer,” “Prayer in the Life of the Believer,”

“The Blood of Jesus,” “Attributes of God”

At the end of your study, compare the concepts you have gathered with the Bible’s teaching on your topic. In most cases the hymns will reflect the Bible’s teaching, but you may notice some discrepancy.

Organize your notes and present the entire study as a paper or as a talk to your classmates. Be sure to contrast any discrepancies in your presentation.

Lesson 8

No. 9: Write a song. You may use one of the above starters if you wish or you may begin with a new idea. Write at least two stanzas and follow your metrical pattern carefully.

No. 10: (Optional activity) If your song is written in long meter, short meter, or common meter, choose a familiar tune, and sing your song to that tune with your class.

Lesson 11

No. 12: (Optional exercise) Have a discussion of “The Hurricane” and “Snow-Bound.”

What human feelings does a giant storm arouse? Are these feelings healthy or unhealthy? Which of these poetic descriptions of a storm do you like better? What parallels are there between the coming of the hurricane and the coming of the Lord? Do you think Bryant intended these parallels?

Books You May Want to Have Available

Sections 1 and 2

*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary** or another good dictionary

*The Two R’s of Poetry,** Lucy Martin

A number of good hymnals

*Music in Biblical Perspective,** John Coblentz

Section 3

The Best Loved Poems of the American People, Hazel Felleman

Favorite Poems Old and New, Helen Farris

One Hundred and One Famous Poems, Roy J. Cook

The Treasury of Religious Verse, Donald Kaufman