

1. a. Sherwood Anderson (1876-1941) is one of America's best and most popular storytellers. Most of his stories revolve around his home town of Camden, Ohio. Using this small town as a base, Anderson was able to translate the episodes of the town's citizens into a wide range of story and theme.
 - b. "Unlighted Lamps" by Sherwood Anderson does not contain chapters or numbered parts. However, it does contain five natural story breaks denoted by double spacing. Look over the story and number the "parts" or story breaks. The first part is the beginning of the story: "Mary Cochran went out of the rooms..." Now look for the next story break beginning, "On the Sunday evening Mary..." Find all the story parts and number them in your book. We will refer to these story parts throughout the lesson.
 - c. Read "Unlighted Lamps" by Sherwood Anderson in *Great American Short Stories*.
 - d. Define the following words from the story.
 - 1) gesticulated
 - 2) antagonism
 - 3) inanimate
2. a. Look over Parts One and Two of "Unlighted Lamps."
 - b. What is the conflict in this story? How would you classify this conflict?
 - c. Is the setting of the story important to the outcome?
 - d. Describe the character Duke Yetter and explain how he heightens the conflict.
 - e. Why does Mary enjoy walking through the rough neighborhood in the upper part of town? Give a sentence from the story that supports your answer.
 - f. How do the rumors concerning Mary's mother add to her desire to escape from town? Give a sentence from the story that supports your answer.
 - g. Often an author uses people or things as **symbols** for ideas he wishes to relate to the reader. The fight that breaks out between the two boys symbolizes the conflict between Mary and the townspeople. Which boy is the symbol for the townspeople and which is the symbol for Mary? Explain your answer. (More information on symbols is found in Lesson 28, 2g.)

What does this tell you about the way Mary feels?

- h. Why does Mary react so angrily to Duke Yetter's intrusion?

- i. In viewing this area of town through Mary's eyes, does she believe there is a definite line that divides classes of people? Support your answer with examples from the text.
 - j. Do you believe that a class system still exists today? Is it different in any way? Write a few paragraphs explaining your viewpoint.
3. a. Reread Part Three of "Unlighted Lamps."
- b. It is evident that Mary has led a very isolated life. Based on what you have read, is this isolation entirely due to the way she is treated by the townspeople or is it somewhat due to her response to others? Support your answer with examples from the story.
 - c. What does the laborer's story reveal to us about the relationship between Mary and her father?
 - d. How is Mary affected by the laborer's story?
4. a. Reread Part Four of "Unlighted Lamps."
- b. What does Dr. Cochran's sending away his wife reveal about the relationship between him and Mary?
 - c. What does the scene about the announcement of his wife's pregnancy further reveal about Dr. Cochran's feelings? Why is he unable to show affection? Support your answer with sentences from the story.
 - d. Two types of literature are realism and romanticism. **Realism** describes a story in which the author gives a realistic view of life. It usually involves everyday people and does not necessarily have a "happy ending." **Romanticism** is based more on an imaginary view of life, with heroes and happy endings. Would you classify "Unlighted Lamps" as realism or romanticism? Why?
 - e. "Unlighted Lamps" is part of a collection of short stories entitled *Winesburg, Ohio*, by Sherwood Anderson. The author felt the stories belonged together and should be read collectively rather than separately.

Optional: Locate the book, *Winesburg, Ohio*, at your library and read other selections. Do you agree with the author that they should be read as a complete work rather than as separate short stories?

5. a. Reread Part Five of "Unlighted Lamps."

- b. This story ends with the last chance for communication being lost. What fundamental tendency of human nature kept the doctor and his daughter from communicating with each other? Do you see this tendency in yourself and others?
- c. The author of “Unlighted Lamps,” Sherwood Anderson, had a major influence on early twentieth century literature. Unlike other authors, he wrote stories that focused on mood and an examination of the emotions and thoughts of the characters rather than an emphasis on the plot.
- d. The **mood** of a story is based on how a piece of literature makes the reader feel. What is the mood created in “Unlighted Lamps”? What elements of the story cause this mood to be created?
- e. The doctor did not have a good relationship with his daughter; in fact, they were very distant in their relationship with each other. Describe ways you think the doctor could have made his relationship with his daughter better.
- f. In the story, Mary has a realization about her father’s life. The author refers to it as “... like a stream running always in shadows and never coming out into the sunlight...” Write a paragraph explaining this line and what the author was saying about the doctor’s life.
- g. Using a thesaurus, write a synonym for each of the following vocabulary words:
 - 1) gesticulated
 - 2) antagonism
 - 3) inanimate