

Welcome to the Book Club!

Hosted by Caitlin Jacobs



Goals of the Club

- Read a whole book in English
- Enjoy reading
- Get into the habit of reading
- Talk about a book in English

Goals for Today

- Discuss our reading habits
- Learn about the author, O. Henry.
- Read and discuss the short story “The Christmas Presents”

Your Reading Habits

- Answer the questions on the survey about your reading habits.
- Now, discuss your answers in a small group.
 - Everyone speaks
 - Continue the conversations with more questions

O. Henry



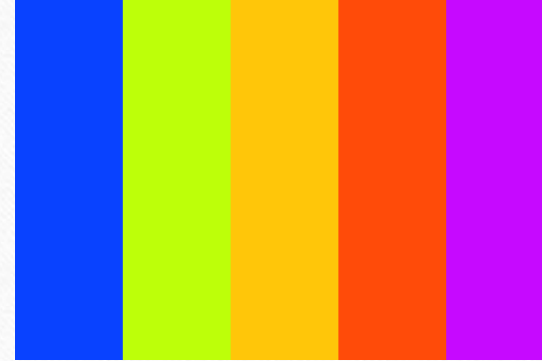
- Real name: William Sydney Porter
- Born in North Carolina in 1862
- He spent three years in prison for embezzling money while working at a bank.
 - This means he stole money while he was an employee.
- While in prison, he wrote many short stories using the name “O. Henry.” He became most famous with this name.
- He developed a drinking problem and died in 1910.

O. Henry's Stories

- He became very popular while he was living and is still one of the most famous American authors today.
- He wrote over 600 short stories.
- His stories are mostly about the everyday lives of everyday people.
- He got ideas for his stories by standing around in hotel lobbies and watching and talking to people there.
- Many of his stories have surprising endings.



A tramp / hobo / bum:
A homeless person



Vivid (adj):
Very bright and clear

These are vivid colors.

A lawyer:
Someone who works with the law



Sympathetic (adj):
Showing care and concern for another person's feelings

“The Christmas Presents”

- The real title of this story is “The Gift of the Magi.”
- It’s O. Henry’s most famous story.
- It’s about a young husband and wife who don’t have much money.
- O. Henry was very happily married to his first wife, Athol, and had one daughter. Unfortunately, Athol died of illness in 1897.
- Many believe the wife in “The Christmas Presents” is based on Athol.





Hair combs

A pocket watch and chain



Author's Technique: Repetition

- The author repeats some words in the story several times to make us feel different things. Can you find examples of repeated words?
 - Cheapest
 - One dollar and eighty-seven cents
 - Poor
 - Old
 - Gray
- How does the repetition of these words make the reader feel?

Discussion Questions

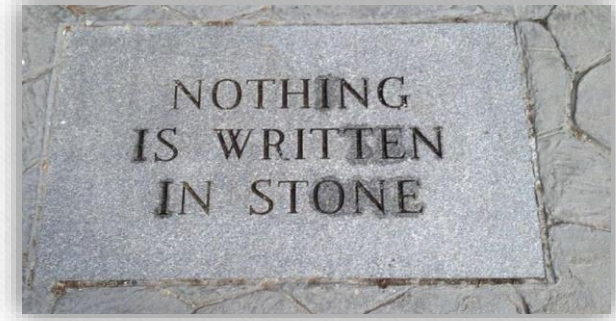
1. Do Della and Jim seem like real people? For example, do you think you could meet people like them in real life?
2. Do you think the ending is happy?
3. Which is more important: money or love?
4. Tell about one of the best gifts you've ever received.

“Soapy’s choice”

- The story was written in December 1904.
- It includes some things O. Henry is famous for:
 - It happens in New York City
 - It’s about a person from a lower class
 - It has a lot of **irony**.



What is Irony?



- **Irony** (n) is when something surprising and unexpected happens.
 - **Irony** (adj)
 1. A thief steals a car and crashes into a police station. That's ironic!
 2. I go to a Japanese restaurant because I want to speak Japanese, but all the staff speaks English. How ironic!
 3. A man waits his whole life to retire, but dies the day after he quits his job. That's a sad irony.

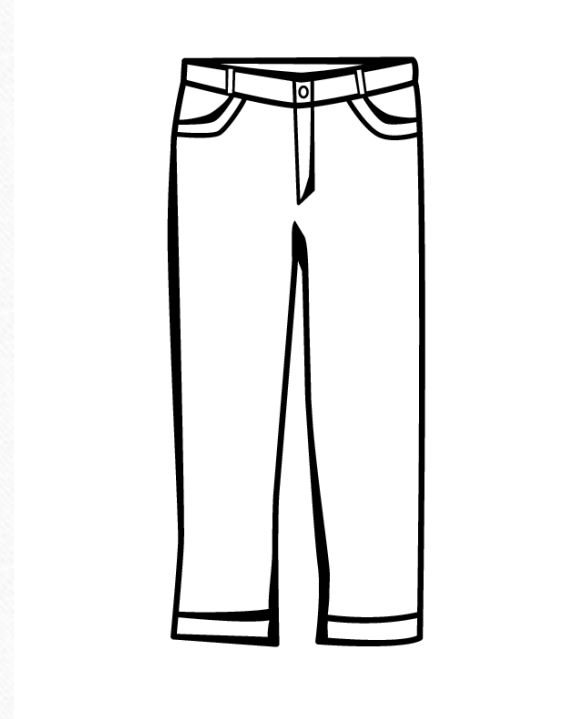
Irony in “Soapy’s Choice”

- Soapy’s name is ironic. He’s a bum / hobo. Hobos are often dirty, but his name is “Soapy.”
- While you read, think about other examples of irony in the story.





Prison (n): where people go
when they break the law



Trousers (n): men's pants

Find Irony

- Soapy spends the whole story trying to go to prison, but the police don't take him. Then at the end of the story, Soapy decides to change his life, but then the police bring him to prison.
- Soapy bothers a young woman, but she agrees to go out with him.
- Soapy steals a man's umbrella, but the man says sorry because it might be Soapy's umbrella.
- Soapy broke a window, but the policeman chased a different man who was running to catch a bus.
- Soapy eats a meal at a restaurant and doesn't pay, but the waiters just throw him out.
- Soapy makes a lot of noise around rich people, but the policeman leave him alone because he's not dangerous.

Discussion

- How do you feel about Soapy? Do you have sympathy?
- Do you feel like you work hard sometimes but can't succeed? Do you feel like life holds you down?
- Was Soapy's life different in the past?
- Why do you think Soapy's life changed?
What happened?



A Walk In Amnesia

- **Amnesia** (n): when you forget everything about your life or the past.
 - After the car accident, he had amnesia. He couldn't even remember his name.



A Walk in Amnesia

- “A Ramble in Aphasia”

Who Said It?

- Who said each line: Elwyn Belford or Edward Pinkhammer? Who was he talking to?

Quote	Who said it?	Who was he talking to?
“But I <i>do</i> rest.”		
“Sometimes people do forget who they are.”		
“Are you sure you know me?”		
“I’ve never seen you before in my life.”		
“How can I get better?”		
“I’m a little tired of it all now.”		
“It was wonderful!”		

Discussion

1. Did Bellford really have amnesia? How do you know?
 - P.21 He checks out of the hotel to get away from a man who recognizes him
 - P.24 He takes the woman's hand for a second
 - P.26 He says he's tired of having amnesia
2. Near the end of the story, Bellford meets a woman. Who do you think she was?
3. "I learned something very important—if you want to be happy, you must be free." Do you agree?
4. Bellford wanted to take a vacation from his life. Have you ever wanted to do the same?

Tildy's Moment

- “The Brief Debut of Tildy”
- **Moment** (n): a short period of time. “It’s snowing one moment and sunny the next.” “Please wait a moment.”
- Have you ever worked as a waitress?
- Have you ever received unwanted attention from men?





A black eye

React to These Quotes

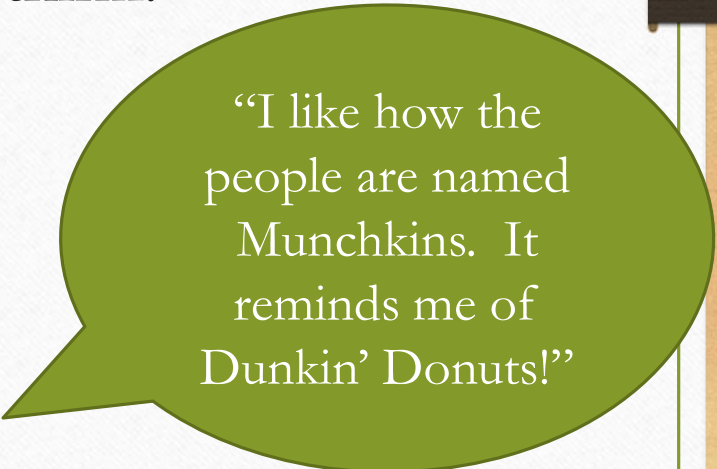
1. “How wonderful to have a black eye for love!” (p.29)
2. “Now she was a real woman because someone loved her.” (p.31)
3. “Tildy did not like him very much, but the kiss was important to her—now there was nothing.” (p.32)
4. “A *real* man never says sorry!” (p.32)

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- How does Tildy change after she gets kissed?
 - She looks more beautiful and becomes happier.
 - How do customer's opinions about her change?
 - They began to smile and say nice things to her.
 - Tildy thinks the reason things change is because someone loves her, but they probably changed because she became **confident and happy**.

Your First Impressions

- Your **first impressions** are your first thoughts and feelings about something.
- After reading the book for 20 minutes, what do you think?
 - How is the difficulty level? Easy, just right, or difficult?
 - Are you interested in the story? Why or why not?
 - What do you think might happen next?
 - Did anything confuse you? Ask your group for help.
 - Share something from the story you liked. For example:



“I like how the people are named Munchkins. It reminds me of Dunkin’ Donuts!”

Your Reading Log

- A reading log will help you read more often.
- Try to read every day.
- Write the time you read and how many pages you read.
- We'll share our logs at our next meeting.

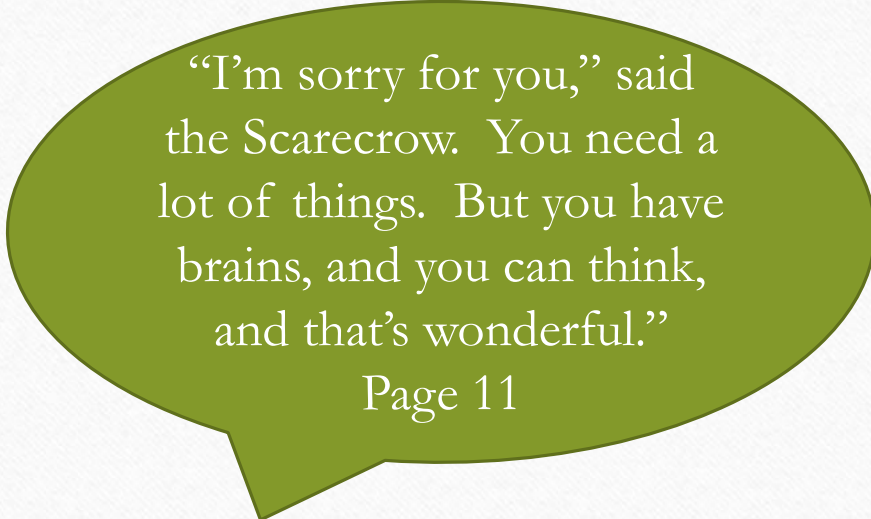


Book Club Meeting #2

- Put pieces of the story in order
- Explain important details from the story
- Choose and share passages from the story
- Share opinions about the story
- Compare reading logs
- Improve reading skills with the 100 most common words in English

Pick A Passage

- Choose a passage from the book.
 - An interesting one
 - A funny one
 - A confusing one
 - ...etc
- Share the passage and page number with your group. Explain why you chose it.



“I’m sorry for you,” said the Scarecrow. You need a lot of things. But you have brains, and you can think, and that’s wonderful.”

Page 11

Discussion



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1. Do you agree that the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion don't have a brain, heart, or courage? Why or why not?
 2. "East, West—Home's Best." Do you feel the same way?
 3. You can ask the Wizard of Oz for something. What will you ask for?

Final Meeting

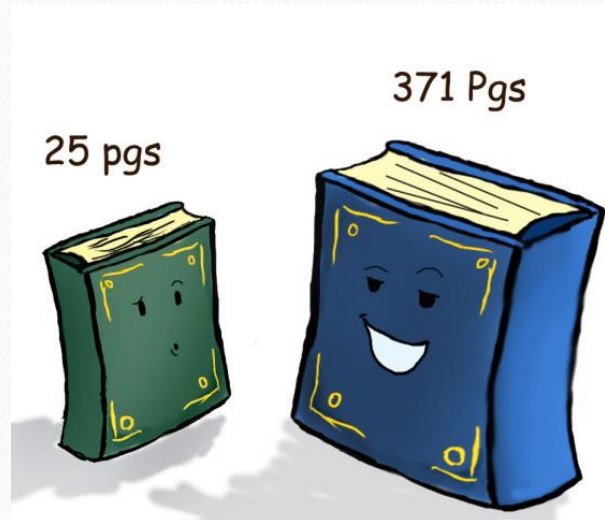
- Finish watching “The Wizard of Oz”
- Discuss your opinions and feelings about the book and movie
- Give feedback about the book club

Discussion

- What did you like better: the book or the movie?
- Who was your favorite character?
- What was one of your favorite parts?

Short Stories

- A **novel** is a book with one long story.
- **Short stories** are usually only a few pages. One book can have many short stories.



Which Do You Like?

I like short stories because...

- I can read a whole story in a short time.
- I can read many different stories about the same **topic**.
- They usually become interesting faster than a novel.

I like novels because...

- I can know the **characters** better.
- I can enjoy more details about the story.
- I can enjoy and think about a longer story over a longer time.

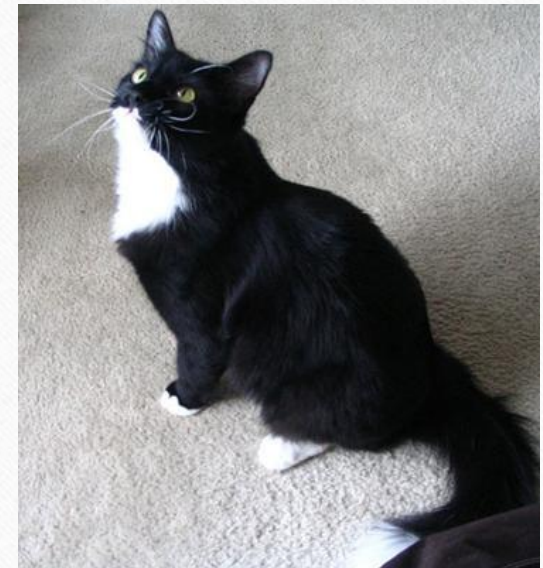
Favorite / Famous Short Stories

- What short stories are famous in your culture?
- Do you have a favorite short story?
- Let's share!

- Edgar Allan Poe is a famous American author.
- One of his stories is “**The Black Cat**”
- It’s about a man who loves animals. His wife loves animals, too. They have a lot of pets.
- The man starts to drink too much. He becomes a bad man. He starts hurting his wife and his pets.
- One day, he kills his black cat. He hangs the cat from a tree.
- Later that night, his house burns down.



- A few months later, the man finds a black cat at a bar. The cat follows him home.
- The cat looks the same as the other cat except he has **some white fur on his chest**.
- The white fur changes to look like a **noose**. The man is very afraid of the cat.
- The man gets angry one day and kills his wife. He hides her body in the wall of his house..
- The police come to his house. They don't think anything is wrong.
- Suddenly, they hear screaming from the wall.
- They open the wall and see the cat sitting on top of the wife's body.
- The man will now be **executed** for his **crime**.



Your Turn

- Tell us about a famous short story, or your favorite short story.
- Chinese short stories:
 - Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai (梁山伯与祝英台)
 - The White Snake (白蛇传)
 - Meng Jiangnu cried the Great Wall (孟姜女哭长城)
- Japanese short stories:
 - Momotaro
 - Kaguya-hime



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- Ill (adj): sick
 - Carriage (n): the inside of a train
 - Guard (n): a person who protects a place; security