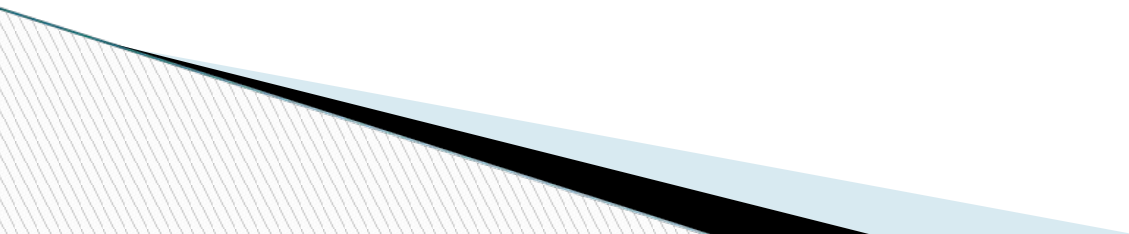


INTERGRATED LESSON

A.P. CHEKHOV – O. HENRY



THEY HAVE VERY MUCH IN COMMON

A.P. Chekhov

- ❑ Born on 17 of January **1860** in Taganrog , Russia.
- ❑ He went to **a medical school** in Moscow and later became **a doctor**.
- ❑ By 1886, he had become famous as a writer of plays e.g. **THE SEAGULL** (1896) and his brilliant short story **THE STEPPE**.
- ❑ Chekhov was a very fast writer who could produce a story in **under an hour!**
- ❑ A typical Chekhov 's story is about the thoughts and emotions of the characters.

W.S. Porter

- ❑ Born on the 11 of September, **1862** in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- ❑ He was licensed as **a pharmacist** and worked at **a drugstore**.
- ❑ In 1896 he wrote **CABBAGES AND KINGS**, the most famous of his works.
- ❑ O. Henry wrote 381 short stories (**a story a week**).
- ❑ O. Henry's stories have their surprise endings, they are playful and optimistic.

O.
Henry

O. Henry was the pen name of the
American writer William Sydney
Porter

Early life



William Sidney Porter was born on September 11, 1862, in Greensboro, North Carolina. His middle name at birth was Sidney; he changed the spelling to Sydney in 1898. His parents were Dr. Algernon Sidney Porter (1825–1888), a physician, and Mary Jane Virginia Swaim Porter (1833–1865). They were married April 20, 1858. When William was three, his mother died from tuberculosis, and he and his father moved into the home of his paternal grandmother. As a child, Porter was always reading, everything from classics to dime novels; his favorite work was *One Thousand and One Nights*. Porter graduated from his aunt Evelina Maria Porter's elementary school in 1876. He then enrolled at the Lindsey Street High School. His aunt continued to tutor him until he was fifteen. In 1879, he started working in his uncle's drugstore and in 1881, at the age of nineteen, he was licensed as a pharmacist. At the drugstore, he also showed off his natural artistic talents by sketching the townsfolk.

Moving to Texas



Porter traveled with Dr. James R. Hall to Texas in March 1882, hoping that a change of air would help alleviate a persistent cough he had developed. He took up residence on the sheep ranch of Richard Hall, James' son, in La Salle County and helped out as a shepherd, ranch hand, cook and baby-sitter. While on the ranch, he learned bits of Spanish and German from the mix of immigrant ranch hands. He also, spent time reading classic literature. Porter's health did improve and he traveled with

Flight and return



PICB 07185, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Porter's father-in-law posted bail to keep Porter out of jail, but the day before Porter was due to stand trial on July 7, 1896, he fled, first to New Orleans and later to Honduras. While holed up in a Tegucigalpa hotel for several months, he wrote *Cabbages and Kings*, in which he coined the term "banana republic" to describe the country, subsequently used to describe almost any small, unstable tropical nation in Latin America. Porter had sent Athol and Margaret back to Austin to live with Athol's parents. Unfortunately, Athol became too ill to meet Porter in Honduras as Porter

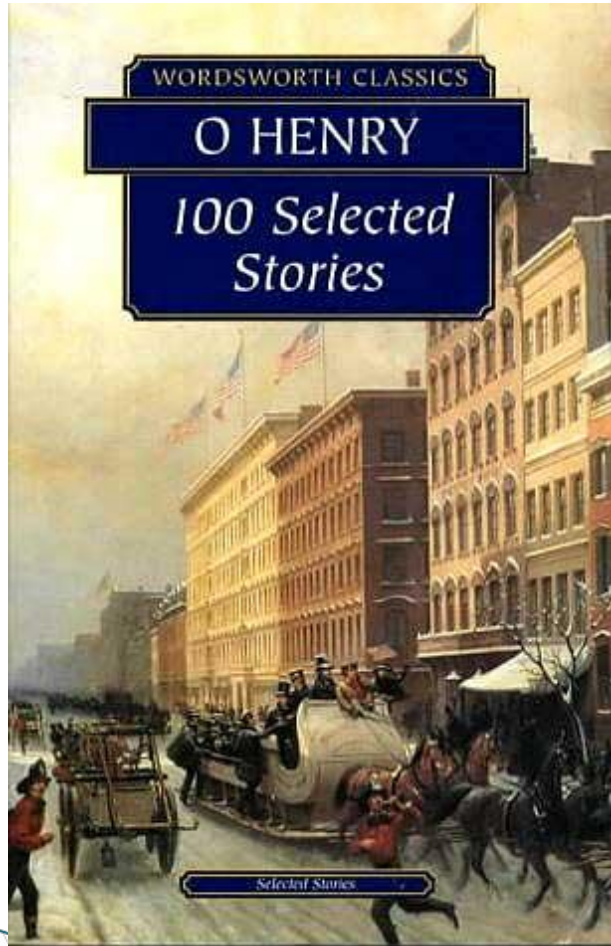
Laten to



Porter's most prolific writing period started in 1902, when he moved to New York City to be near his publishers. While there, he wrote 381 short stories. He wrote a story a week for over a year for the New York World Sunday Magazine. His wit, characterization and plot twists were adored by his readers, but often panned by critics.

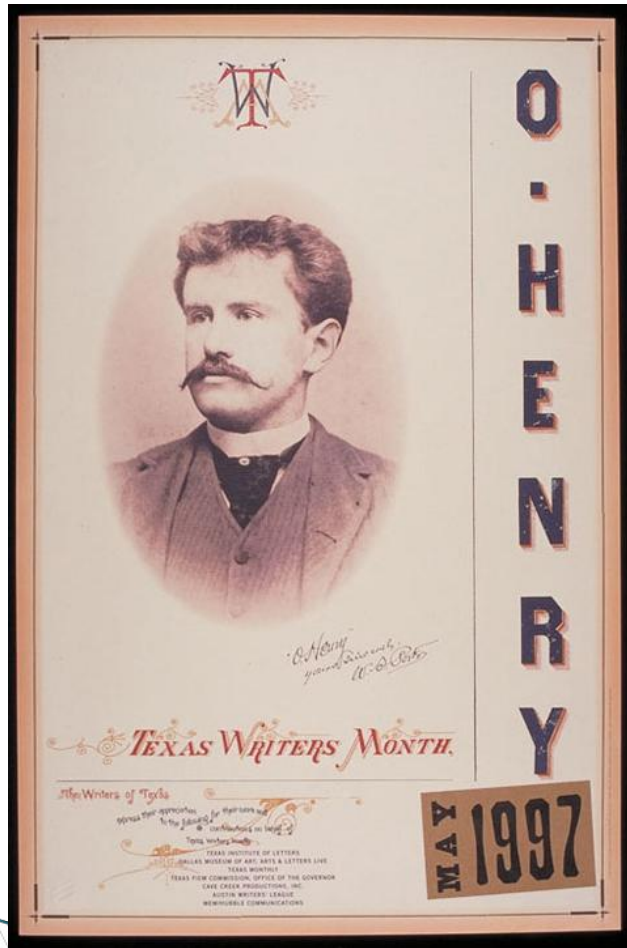
Porter married again in 1907, to childhood sweetheart Sarah (Gallie) Lindsey Coleman, whom he met again after revisiting his native state of North Carolina. However, despite the success of his short stories being published in magazines and collections (or perhaps because of the attendant pressure that success brought), Porter drank heavily. His health

Stories



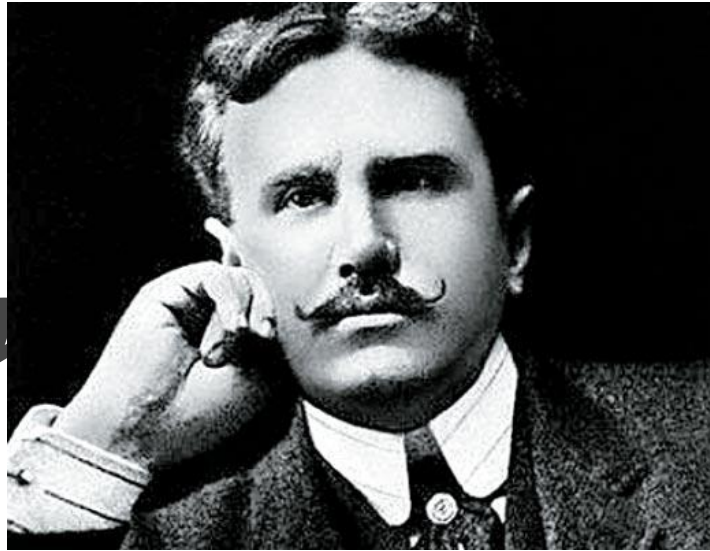
O. Henry's stories are famous for their surprise endings, to the point that such an ending is often referred to as an "O. Henry ending." He was called the American answer to Guy de Maupassant. Both authors wrote twist endings, but O. Henry's stories were much more playful and optimistic. His stories are also well known for witty narration. Most of O. Henry's stories are set in his own time, the early years of the 20th century. Many take place in New York City, and deal for the most part with ordinary people: clerks, policemen, waitresses. Fundamentally a product of his time, O. Henry's work provides one of the best English examples of catching the entire flavor of an age. Whether roaming the cattle-lands of Texas, exploring the art of the "gentle thief," or investigating the

Most famous stories



- "The Gift of the Magi" about a young couple who are short of money but desperately want to buy each other Christmas gifts. Unbeknownst to Jim, Della sells her most valuable possession, her beautiful hair, in order to buy a platinum fob chain for Jim's watch; while unbeknownst to Della, Jim sells his own most valuable possession, his watch, to buy jeweled combs for Della's hair. The essential premise of

Pen na



Porter gave various explanations for the origin of his pen name. In 1909 he gave an interview to The New York Times, in which he gave an account of it:

It was during these New Orleans days that I adopted my pen name of O. Henry. I said to a friend: "I'm going to send out some stuff. I don't know if it amounts to much, so I want to get a literary alias. Help me pick out a good one." He suggested that we get a newspaper and pick a name from the first list of notables that we found in it. In the society columns we found the account of a fashionable ball. "Here we have our notables," said he. We looked down the list and my eye lighted on the name Henry, "That'll do for a last name," said I. "Now for a first name. I want something short. None of your three-syllable names for me." "Why don't you use a plain initial letter, then?" asked my friend. "Good," said I, "O is about the easiest letter written, and O it is."

A newspaper once wrote and asked me what the O stands for. I replied, "O stands for Oliver, the French for Oliver."

Legacy



The O. Henry Award is a prestigious annual prize given to outstanding short stories, and named after Porter. Several schools around the country bear Porter's pseudonym.

In 1952, a film featuring five stories, called O. Henry's Full House, was made. The episode garnering the most critical acclaim was "The Cop and the Anthem", starring Charles Laughton and William Monroe. The other

you the
performance
of one his
short stories

Are you
ready?

Witches' loaves

Cast:

Sonokina Tatyana - miss
Martha Meacham

Muravyov Vyacheslav -
Blumbergen

Baranenko Rinill -
Blumbergen's friend

Martynova Julia - the
author