

Chapter 1 : The 50 Best Short Stories of All Time - How many have you read?

O. Henry (Worlds Greatest Writers/) by Henry O. Bookthrift Co. Hardcover. GOOD. Spine creases, wear to binding and pages from reading. May contain limited notes, underlining or highlighting that does affect the text.

This sentimental story has a twist with a lesson about the true meaning of gift giving. In this short story, a mysterious man offers a bargain for lighting a lighter on the first try. Win, you get a new car. Lose, he gets to take your finger. Popular for its twist ending and the inspiration for many other writers, this short story is a must-read for anyone interested in the genre. While the narrative devices used in telling the story might be confusing at first, readers who persevere will be rewarded with a rich tale spanning several decades. This story uses the form of a fairy tale to look at love, sacrifice and relationships. Included in a short story collection and published on its own, this story documents the lengths one family will go to in order to keep their secret source of wealth a hidden. This magical realist story focuses on a couple who have found what they believe to be an angel in their front yardâ€” for better or for worse. While Tolstoy may be better known for his epic novels, this short story in the form of a parable about a king searching for the most important questions in life shows he mastered the medium of the short story as well. If you never enjoyed the tale of this dedicated mongoose as a child, pick it up today. This colorful tale about a man and his famous jumping frog earned Twain fame and acclaim and is well worth a read. Over the course of fifteen short stories, readers will gain insights into Irish middle-class life at the beginning of the 20th century. A writer on safari in Africa is close to death and looks back on his life regrettably in this short tale. Azaro is a spirit child who is born only to live for a short while before returning to the idyllic world of his spirit companions. Now he has chosen to stay in the world of the living. This is his story. The novel centers on the Compson family, former Southern aristocrats who are struggling to deal with the dissolution of their family and its reputation. Please follow and like us: He deals and dwells on innovative titles and intriguing topics. It is a place to get intellectually involved, emotional indulged and spiritually inspired. This blog is all about being bold and beautiful, solid and silence, aspire and inspire, drive and strive, and finally to make and break.

Chapter 2 : O. Henry - Biography - IMDb

Originally published in , this was the first full-length biography of O. Henry, based upon original letters and sources. C. Alphonso Smith () was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, O. Henry's hometown, and knew the writer as a fellow townsman as well as a subject for literary biography.

America really has dominated modern English literature – not just in the pulp fiction arena but in serious literature as well. From the moment that America found its voice in the world of writing, it has had an incredibly significant presence. This list looks at ten of the masters of the short story genre from the USA. Many of his stories have ended up in his novels without the reader realizing they were originally independent tales. His historical works include biographies of George Washington, Oliver Goldsmith and Muhammad, and several histories of 15th-century Spain dealing with subjects such as Christopher Columbus, the Moors, and the Alhambra. He is primarily known as a science fiction writer, however he is one of the few people to have their writing span every major category of the Dewey Decimal System except Philosophy. He wrote an estimated books in his lifetime. As far as writing short stories goes, he has 3 well known stories. He wrote 19 Short Story collections, spanning a total of He is famous for writing a short story every day, a ritual that many other writers have attempted to follow. He has written 11 novels, 3 of which are made up of loosely connected stories, and over 40 short story collections, for a grand total of over short stories and novellas. He is a huge fan of the short story. He has written 8 story collections and a total of short stories and 17 Novellas in his career. Henry Award in A very eccentric writer, he has written a great deal of material in his life, but much of it has never been seen by any one but him. He has 3 other books available to the public. All 3 of these books are short story collections. He also has about 2 dozen other uncollected short stories. Salinger is considered by many to be the greatest American writer of the 20th century. Henry Real name William Sydney Porter. Henry is known for writing flash fiction with wit and a strange twist ending. This story has been retold in many different forms over the years. Henry Award was established in his honor, it is a very prestigious award given to outstanding short story writers. Two writers on this list have won this award. He has also won over 30 different awards in his lifetime including: Henry Award to name a few. Scott Fitzgerald was an American writer of novels and short stories, whose works are evocative of the Jazz Age, a term he coined himself. He finished four novels, including *The Great Gatsby*, with another published posthumously, and wrote dozens of short stories that treat themes of youth and promise along with despair and age. Poe only wrote one complete novel in his lifetime, and it is not very well known, however his short stories are. Poe has over 65 short stories to his name. Poe is also considered to have invented the detective genre.

Chapter 3 : O. Henry Quotes - BrainyQuote

O. Henry (Worlds Greatest Writers/) by Henry O and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at blog.quintoapp.com

Henry was an American writer whose short stories are known for wit, wordplay and clever twist endings. He wrote nearly stories about life in America. His father, Algernon Sidney Porter, was a medical doctor. When William was three his mother died and he was raised by his grandmother and aunt. He left school at the age of 15 and then had a number of jobs, including bank clerk. In he was accused of embezzlement. He absconded from the law to New Orleans and later fled to Honduras. When he learned that his wife was dying, he returned to US and surrendered to police. Although there has been much debate over his actual guilt, he was convicted of embezzling funds from the bank that employed him, he was sentenced to 5 years in jail. In he was sent to the penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio. While in prison he began writing short stories in order to support his young daughter Margaret. He used a pseudonym, Olivier Henry, only once and changed his pen name to O. Henry, not wanting his readers to know he was in jail. He published 12 stories while in prison. After serving 3 years of the five-year sentence, he was released for good behavior. His first collection of stories was "Cabbages and Kings" One of his last stories, "The Ransom of Red Chief" , is perhaps the best known of his works. His success brought the attendant pressure, and he suffered from alcohol addiction. His second marriage lasted 2 years, and his wife left him in He began writing his by-now famous short stories in prison in order to help support his daughter, Margaret. He was released after three years and soon after changed his pen name to O. Though many sources indicate O. He changed the spelling of his middle name to "Sydney" when he began working for newspapers in the s. Porter is said to have derived the pen-name O. His only formal education was received at the school of his Aunt Lina, where he developed a lifelong love of books. Died at the age of forty seven. An alcoholic, he died virtually penniless. Licensed as a pharmacist at 19 He worked as a pharmacist during his imprisonment for embezzlement In , his wife gave birth to a premature son, who died a few hours later. Their daughter Margaret Worth Porter was born on September 30, Second wife Sara Lindsey Coleman was his childhood sweetheart. Personal Quotes 6 Write what you like; there is no other rule. Inject a few raisins of conversation into the tasteless dough of life. Life is sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating. A straw vote only shows which way the hot air blows.

Chapter 4 : - O. Henry (Worlds Greatest Writers/) by Henry O

See more like this (Good)-O. Henry (Worlds Greatest Writers/) (Hardcover)-Henry O SPONSORED Acceptable - O. Henry's Short Stories (Complete and Unabridged) (Minster Classic.

Summary Summary The more than stories written by O. Henry provided an embarrassment of riches for the compilers of this volume. They are tales in his most mellow, humorous, and ironic moods. They give the full range and flavor of the man born William Sydney Porter but known throughout the world as O. Henry, one of the great masters of the short story. Porter was a licensed pharmacist and worked on a sheep ranch in Texas. He was convicted of embezzlement and eventually served five years in prison. While in prison, he began writing short stories under his pseudonym and eventually wrote over In , the O. Henry Awards, an annual anthology of short stories, was established in his honor. Porter died on June 5, And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Three times Delia counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Delia did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating. While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad. In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Delia. Which is all very good. Delia finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray backyard. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling--something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim. There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Delia, being slender, had mastered the art. Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length. Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet. On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street. Where she stopped the sign read: Hair Goods of All Kinds. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie. Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation--as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. It was like him. Quietness and value--the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain. When Delia reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends--a mammoth task. Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in

the mirror long, carefully, and critically. But what could I do--oh! Jim was never late. Delia doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit of saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two--and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves. Jim stepped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Delia, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face. Delia wriggled off the table and went for him. I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs on my head were numbered," she went on with a sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim? He enfolded his Delia. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year--what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on. Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! For there lay The Combs--the set of combs, side and back, that Delia had worshipped for long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims--just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone. But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit. I hunted all over town to find it. Give me your watch.

Chapter 5 : O. Henry | American author | blog.quintoapp.com

list of books about topic: Henry, O. O. Henry [Worlds Greatest Writers/] O. Henry Bookthrift Company, [edition, hardback] [English]) blog.quintoapp.com

Like many other writers, O. His first creative expressions came while working in the pharmacy where he would sketch the townspeople that frequented the store. The customers reacted warmly to his drawings and he was admired for his artistry and drawing skills. Henry moved to Texas in March of hoping to get rid of a persistent cough that he had developed. While there, he took up residence on a sheep ranch, learned shepherding, cooking, babysitting, and bits of Spanish and German from the many migrant farmhands. He had an active social life in Austin and was a fine musician, skilled with the guitar and mandolin. Over the next several years, Porter -- as he was still known -- took a number of different jobs, from pharmacy to drafting, journalism, and banking. Banking, in particular, was not to be O. His father-in-law posted bail for him, but he fled the day before the trial in , first to New Orleans, then to Honduras, where there was no extradition treaty. He befriended a notorious train robber there, Al Jennings, who later wrote a book about their friendship. Henry sent his wife and daughter back to Texas, after which he holed up in a hotel to write his first collection of short stories, *Cabbages an Kings* published in He learned his wife was dying of tuberculosis and could not join him in Honduras, so he returned to Austin and turned himself in to the court. His father-in-law again posted his bail so he could remain with his wife until her death in He was sentenced and served in Federal prison in Ohio for five years from During his jail time, he returned to practicing pharmacy and had a room in the hospital, never having to live in a cell. Henry was always a lover of classic literature, and while pursuing his many ventures, O. Henry had begun writing as a hobby. Henry collected ideas for his column by loitering in hotel lobbies and observing and talking to people there. He relied on this technique to gain creative inspiration throughout his writing career; which is a fun fact to keep in mind while reading an imaginative masterpiece of a story like *Transients in Arcadia*. The stories were set in a midwestern American town in which sub-plots and larger plots are interwoven in an engaging manner. His second collection of stories, *The Four Million*, was released in The stories are set in New York City, and the title is based on the population of the city at that time. The collection contained several short story masterpieces, including *The Gift of the Magi* , *The Cop and the Anthem* , and many others. Henry had an obvious affection for New York City and its diversity of people and places, a reverence that rises up through many of his stories. His most famous short story, *The Gift of the Magi* , epitomizes his style. That problem -- their lack of funds -- finds a famously endearing and ironic resolution. *The Cop and the Anthem* is about A New York City hobo with a creative solution for dealing with the cold city streets during winter. Another story, *A Retrieved Reformation* , is about a safecracker, Jimmy Valentine, fresh from prison, whose life takes an unexpected turn while trying to come clean or is he casing his next crime scene? *The Ransom of Red Chief* , a story about two hapless kidnappers who snatch a heinous boy whose menacing ways turn the tables on them. By , his health had deteriorated and his writing dropped off accordingly. He died in of cirrhosis of the liver, complications of diabetes, and an enlarged heart. The funeral was held in New York City, but he was buried in North Carolina, the state where he was born. He was a gifted short story writer and left us a rich legacy of great stories to enjoy. Enjoy some illustrated Short Stories from O. Henry; [click to read](#).

Chapter 6 : The best short stories of O. Henry

About O. Henry. O. Henry is the pseudonym of William Sydney Porter () and the name under which he published all of his work, which includes a novel and some short stories.

Henry Award winners from every year the award has been given out. Henry Award winners are listed below in order of popularity, but can be sorted by any column. People who won the O. Henry Award award are listed along with photos for every O. Henry Award winner that has a picture associated with their name online. You can click on the name of the O. Henry Award award recipients to get more information about each. Henry Award winners from all years. If this proves to not be a full list of O. Henry Award winners, you can help make it so by adding to this one. This list includes the most memorable and well-known O. Henry Award winners of all time. Anybody who won the O. Henry Award usually has a picture associated with their name, so all the O. Henry Award-winning people are listed here with photos when available. This list spans the history of the O. Henry Award, so most of the famous O. Henry Award winners are here and can be a good starting point for making a list of your favorites. This list answers the question "who are all the people who have ever won O. You can use the items in this list to create a new one, just like this one, to start your own.

Chapter 7 : Full text of "Town Topics (Princeton), Oct. 25, "

// O. Henry (Worlds Greatest Writers) / O. Henry // Herman Melville (World's Greatest Writers Series) // Herman Melville // The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany / William L. Shirer.

Biography of O Henry O. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. The two brothers of William were Shirley Worth and David Weir who both died in early childhood. She wrote poetry and had a promising artistic temperament with a natural eye for drawing and painting, surely a talent which young Will inherited. She ran her household with a firm but loving hand. Tragically she died of tuberculosis at the age of thirty when Will was only three years old. His father Sidney was a gentle and good humoured man, gregarious, and generous to a fault. Absent-minded with a long flowing beard, he travelled Guilford county visiting his patients. As was the custom of the time, he never sent invoices to his patients; they were expected to settle once a year. Without his wife to stay on top of their accounts, finances dwindled and Sidney started to drink. Sidney became increasingly occupied with various inventions he was developing, poking about in his workshop with such contraptions as a perpetual motion water wheel. She became teacher, parent, and mentor to him. Will studied the basics there, writing and arithmetic, and he read classic literature and poetry. He was very clever with a pencil and loved to draw caricatures. The combined pharmacy, soda fountain, tobacco shop, and newsstand was the local gathering spot. Porter became immersed in the social scene, entertaining the customers with stories and drawing caricatures of them for which he became well known. He saw the humour in the everyday, and made notes of all the colourful characters he encountered, fodder for his future stories. He also obtained a pharmacist license in Small town life was not to hold him for long, however, and he had developed a persistent cough. Thinking that a change of climate would do him well, at the age of eighteen he moved to Texas, settling in Austin in He was already writing short stories while he held a number of jobs including pharmacist before working with the Texas Land Office. Around this time he met Athol Estes Roach. They married in and had a daughter, Margaret Worth d. With a steady income Porter was now able to focus on his writing. In he began work as a bank teller with the First National Bank. In Porter launched a humorous weekly magazine The Rolling Stone no relation to the current magazine, founded in It featured political and every day satirical articles and cartoons, all by Will himself, which he also published. After time spent in Honduras, during which Porter coined the term "banana republic", he had to return to Texas to face charges of embezzlement. His wife was also was suffering from tuberculosis and he rushed to see her. Athol died in July of They then moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Margaret never knew that her father had spent time in prison. She was always told he was away on business. In he began a five-year sentence in Columbus, Ohio federal prison. Around this time he changed his name to Sydney. Thereafter a number of his stories written in prison appeared in print, always under a pseudonym, his favourite being "O. The general public did not know of his prison term until after his death. After being released from prison in just three years, Porter moved on to the next chapter in his life: Porter crafted everyday tales of myriad characters, many recurring, based in New York City with humour, wit, and realism. Porter also wrote numerous stories set in Western and South and Central America. Troubled by ill-health and heavy drinking for many years, surely Porter was happy when he married his childhood sweetheart from Greensboro, Sara Sallie Lindsey Coleman, in But Porter was living an extravagant lifestyle amid increasing pressure to keep his commitments to publishers for more and more stories. This stress plus added financial problems led to Sara leaving in him in William Sidney Porter died of cirrhosis on 5 June, A funeral was held in New York City. His daughter was later buried beside him. Henry Museum in Austen, Texas, open to the public, serves to preserve artifacts and archival materials related to O. I have nothing to say on the question, sir; Nothing to say to you. And the sun went down and the moon came up, And he talked till the dawn of day; Though he said, "On this subject mentioned by you, I have nothing whatever to say. Henry Biography written by C. Merriman for Jalic Inc. Copyright Jalic Inc The above biography is copyrighted. Do not republish it without permission. All I can find out about her is that Margaret Worth Porter died in which made her 38, about 9 years younger than her father who died of health problems

caused or worsened by alcoholism. Did she have creative leanings? Did she have any accomplishment at all of her own? Did she ever marry? Short for Young Kids? I recently sponsored a Great Books Club for 4th through 6th graders and would love to have them read an O Henry short story that is appropriate for their age, especially one that features a child so they could better relate. Can someone who really knows their stuff suggest a good one? Thank you very much! She gives him a gift to match his blue eyes --they are still blue to her but are clouded now, maybe cataracts. He gives her a gift to match her hair color red I think but it has turned gray. I need the reference for a piece I am writing about couples that reconnect after many years, very grateful for help. It was within a collection of short stories I have, and just so happened to be the next story in the collection I came to right around Thanksgiving time. I have to say that thus far I really do like his work though I have only read two stories, I enjoyed both of them a great deal and find that he truly is a master and clever craftsman with his sto I have heard that he does write horror stories and things of that nature so I have been curious to read his works. I it was by chance that I came across one of his stories within one of my short story collections. I was surprised by how expertly written each story I have read so far was, as I did not really recognize any of the authors names included within the collection, until I came across O Henry. Now I am intrigued to look up the other authors included to see if they too are all known writers who are simply not known to me. Mammon and The Archer was qui Henry short story that involves a married couple. They go about their day either being helpful or nasty to people they encounter then switch roles the next day. Thanks in advance to anyone who can help me He wrote so naturally and without much difficulty as if it was but to breathe to him. What makes him great in my opinion can be listed as such: What would you say about that? Henry I am looking for a short stories written by O. Henry, but I only remember the plot of it. One is a handsome hunter in the mountain and the other is a pretty young peasant maid. They met in the foot of the Alps and fell in love with each other. But in fact both of them are from the upper class of their society. Because of tiring of the life of luxury and privilege of their class, they went to the Alps to live a rural live. But at last, their love story was put to an end, as they know the status of the other. Could anybody knew it tell me the title ASAP: Summary of the ransom of Red Cheif This story tells of a young boy held for ransom by two money hungry criminals, Bill Driscoll and Sam Howard. Do you guys also have problems with many phrases in O. Posted By yessjj in Henry, O 4 Replies the listener? Can anyone help me to find a story by O Henry which my mother read as a child she is now 80 - she believes it was called "The Listener" and would dearly love to read it again. I have been unable to find anything with this title and wondered whether anyone would recognise the tale of a person who hears the goings on of others. I would be so grateful if anyone could help. Posted By rkirk in Henry, O 2 Replies.

Chapter 8 : Town Topics Newspaper April 11, by Witherspoon Media Group - Issuu

The O. Henry Prize Stories contains twenty prize-winning stories chosen from thousands published in literary magazines over the previous year. The winning stories come from a mix of established writers and emerging voices, and are uniformly breathtaking.

This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. He changed the spelling of his middle name to Sydney in His parents were Dr. When William was three, his mother died after birthing her third child, and he and his father moved into the home of his paternal grandmother. He then enrolled at the Lindsey Street High School. His aunt continued to tutor him until he was At the drugstore, he also showed his natural artistic talents by sketching the townsfolk. Hall to Texas in March , hoping that a change of air would help alleviate a persistent cough he had developed. 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 resided with the Harrells for three years. He went to work briefly for the Morley Brothers Drug Company as a pharmacist. He also began writing as a sideline and wrote many of his early stories in the Harrell house. As a young bachelor, Porter led an active social life in Austin. He was known for his wit, story-telling and musical talents. He played both the guitar and mandolin. He sang in the choir at St. Porter family in early "Athol, Margaret daughter , William Porter met and began courting Athol Estes, 17 years old and from a wealthy family. Her mother objected to the match because Athol was ill, suffering from tuberculosis. Smoot, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church , where the Estes family attended church. The couple continued to participate in musical and theater groups, and Athol encouraged her husband to pursue his writing. Athol gave birth to a son in , who died hours after birth, and then daughter Margaret Worth Porter in September The salary was enough to support his family, but he continued his contributions to magazines and newspapers. The castle-like building he worked in was even woven into some of his tales such as "Bexar Scrip No. His job at the GLO was a political appointment by Hall. Hall ran for governor in the election of but lost. Porter resigned on January 21, , the day after the new governor, Jim Hogg , was sworn in. The bank was operated informally, and Porter was apparently careless in keeping his books and may have embezzled funds. In , he was accused by the bank of embezzlement and lost his job but was not indicted at the time. He then worked full-time on his humorous weekly called The Rolling Stone, which he started while working at the bank. Although eventually reaching a top circulation of 1,, The Rolling Stone failed in April because the paper never provided an adequate income. However, his writing and drawings had caught the attention of the editor at the Houston Post. Porter and his family moved to Houston in , where he started writing for the Post. Porter gathered ideas for his column by loitering in hotel lobbies and observing and talking to people there. This was a technique he used throughout his writing career. While he was in Houston, federal auditors audited the First National Bank of Austin and found the embezzlement shortages that led to his firing. A federal indictment followed, and he was arrested on charges of embezzlement. He was due to stand trial on July 7, , but the day before, as he was changing trains to get to the courthouse, an impulse hit him. He fled, first to New Orleans and later to Honduras, with which the United States had no extradition treaty at that time. William lived in Honduras for only six months, until January There he became friends with Al Jennings , a notorious train robber, who later wrote a book about their friendship. Unfortunately, Athol became too ill to meet Porter in Honduras as he had planned. When he learned that his wife was dying, Porter returned to Austin in February and surrendered to the court, pending trial. Athol Estes Porter died from tuberculosis then known as consumption on July 25, He was sentenced to five years in prison and imprisoned on March 25, , at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio. Porter was a licensed pharmacist and was able to work in the prison hospital as the night druggist. He was given his own room in the hospital wing, and there is no record that he actually spent time in the cell block of the prison. He had 14 stories published under various pseudonyms while he was in prison but was becoming best known as "O. A friend of his in New Orleans would forward his stories to publishers so that they had no idea that the writer was imprisoned. Porter was released on July 24, , for good behavior after serving three years. Margaret

was never told that her father had been in prison—just that he had been away on business. While there, he wrote short stories. His wit, characterization, and plot twists were adored by his readers but often panned by critics. Porter married again in to childhood sweetheart Sarah Sallie Lindsey Coleman, whom he met again after revisiting his native state of North Carolina. Sarah Lindsey Coleman was herself a writer and wrote a romanticized and fictionalized version of their correspondence and courtship in her novella *Wind of Destiny*. In , Sarah left him, and he died on June 5, , of cirrhosis of the liver , complications of diabetes , and an enlarged heart. She married cartoonist Oscar Cesare of New York in ; they were divorced four years later. She died of tuberculosis in and is buried next to her father. Stories[edit] Portrait of Porter used as frontispiece in the posthumous collection of short stories *Waifs and Strays* O. In his day he was called the American answer to Guy de Maupassant. While both authors wrote plot twist endings, O. Many take place in New York City and deal for the most part with ordinary people: Henry had an inimitable hand for isolating some element of society and describing it with an incredible economy and grace of language. Some of his best and least-known work is contained in *Cabbages and Kings* , a series of stories each of which explores some individual aspect of life in a paralytically sleepy Central American town, while advancing some aspect of the larger plot and relating back one to another. *Cabbages and Kings* was his first collection of stories, followed by *The Four Million*. Henry, everyone in New York counted. He had an obvious affection for the city, which he called "Bagdad-on-the-Subway", [7] and many of his stories are set there—while others are set in small towns or in other cities. His final work was "Dream", a short story intended for the magazine *The Cosmopolitan* but left incomplete at the time of his death. The essential premise of this story has been copied, re-worked, parodied, and otherwise re-told countless times in the century since it was written. Despite efforts at petty theft, vandalism, disorderly conduct, and "flirting" with a young prostitute, Soapy fails to draw the attention of the police. Disconsolate, he pauses in front of a church, where an organ anthem inspires him to clean up his life; ironically, he is charged for loitering and sentenced to three months in prison. He goes to a town bank to case it before he robs it. They immediately fall in love and Valentine decides to give up his criminal career. He moves into the town, taking up the identity of Ralph Spencer, a shoemaker. Just as he is about to leave to deliver his specialized tools to an old associate, a lawman who recognizes him arrives at the bank. Knowing it will seal his fate, Valentine opens the safe to rescue the child. In later film and TV depictions, the Kid would be portrayed as a dashing adventurer, perhaps skirting the edges of the law, but primarily on the side of the angels. In the original short story, the only story by Porter to feature the character, the Kid is a murderous, ruthless border desperado, whose trail is dogged by a heroic Texas Ranger. The twist ending is, unusually for Porter, tragic. Pen name[edit] Porter used a number of pen names including "O. Henry" or "Olivier Henry" in the early part of his writing career; other names included S. Dowd, and Howard Clark. Henry" seemed to garner the most attention from editors and the public, and was used exclusively by Porter for his writing by about He gave various explanations for the origin of his pen name. It was during these New Orleans days that I adopted my pen name of O. I said to a friend: Help me pick out a good one. In the society columns we found the account of a fashionable ball. I want something short. None of your three-syllable names for me. I replied, "O stands for Olivier, the French for Oliver. Dispensary which Porter used working in the prison pharmacy. Henry Award is a prestigious annual prize named after Porter and given to outstanding short stories. A film was made in featuring five stories, called *O. Henry House* and *O. Henry Hall* , both in Austin, Texas, are named for him. Henry was convicted of embezzlement.

Chapter 9 : World's Best Story Tellers

William Sydney Porter, more famous by his pen name O. Henry, was an American author of short stories. His stories were distinguished for their witty approach, use of words, effects of coincidence on their characters and most often for their surprise endings.

See Article History Alternative Title: William Sydney Porter O. His stories expressed the effect of coincidence on character through humour, grim or ironic , and often had surprise endings, a device that became identified with his name and cost him critical favour when its vogue had passed. In he went to Texas , where he worked on a ranch, in a general land office, and later as teller in the First National Bank in Austin. He began writing sketches at about the time of his marriage to Athol Estes in , and in he started a humorous weekly, The Rolling Stone. When that venture failed, Porter joined the Houston Post as reporter, columnist, and occasional cartoonist. In February he was indicted for embezzlement of bank funds. Friends aided his flight to Honduras. When convicted, Porter received the lightest sentence possible, and in he entered the penitentiary at Columbus , Ohio; his sentence was shortened to three years and three months for good behaviour. As night druggist in the prison hospital, he could write to earn money for support of his daughter Margaret. His stories of adventure in the southwest U. Porter had become O. His first book, Cabbages and Kings , depicted fantastic characters against exotic Honduran backgrounds. Both The Four Million and The Trimmed Lamp explored the lives of the multitude of New York in their daily routines and searchings for romance and adventure. Heart of the West presented accurate and fascinating tales of the Texas range. A second marriage in was unhappy. After his death three more collected volumes appeared: Later seven fugitive stories and poems, O. Henryana , Letters to Lithopolis , and two collections of his early work on the Houston Post, Postscripts and O. Henry Encore , were published. Foreign translations and adaptations for other art forms, including films and television, attest his universal application and appeal. Learn More in these related Britannica articles: