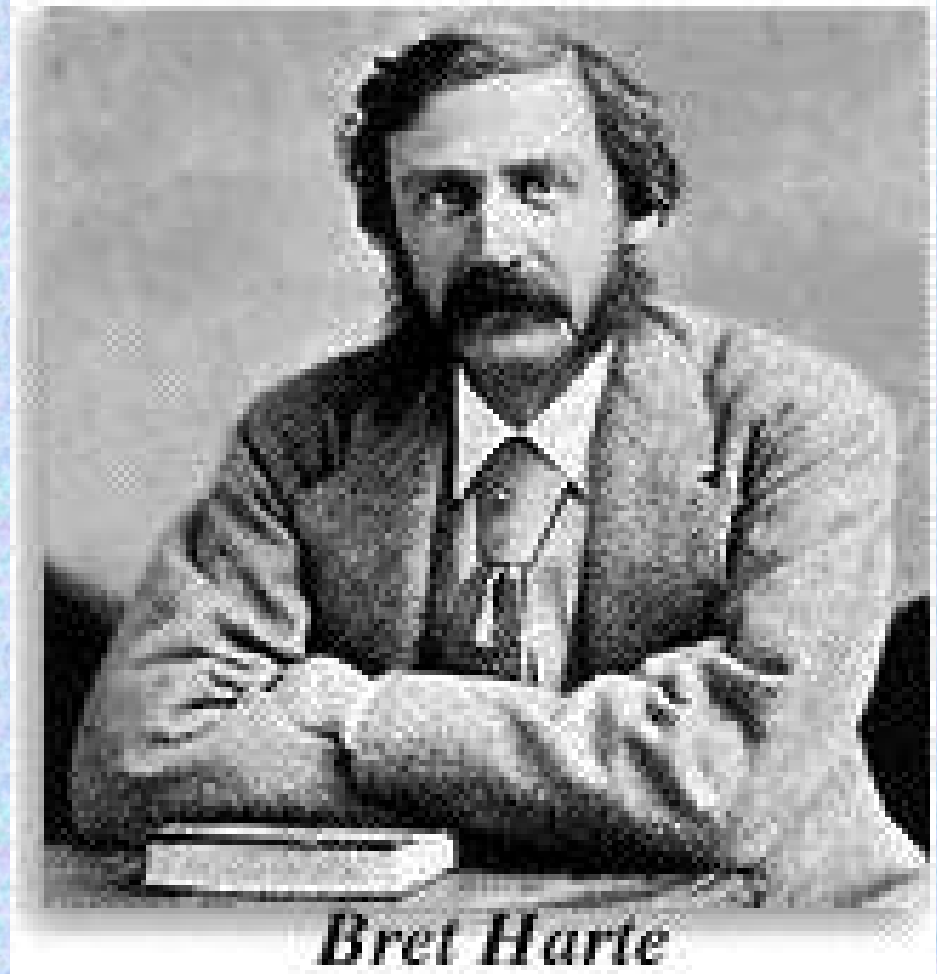


The Outcasts of Poker Flat

By

Bret Harte



Instructions

**Pre Reading Activity –
Read Page 474- 475**

**Before You Read, Meet Bret Harte, Time
and Place and A Closer Look at
Language.**

**Then Read and take notes of this Slide
Show's information about Realism and
Local Color**

Historical Context

Bret Harte was the Secretary of the United States Branch Mint at San Francisco.

In 1869 -- Harte's The Outcasts of Poker Flat appears in January Overland Monthly.

After the success of The Outcasts of Poker Flat Harte left the Mint to devote himself to writing in 1870.

Harte moved to Boston to be a contributing editor for Atlantic Monthly.

Harte, Realism and Local Color

- Bret Harte was one of the outstanding writers of realism along with Mark Twain.
- Like Twain, Harte's writing centered on the western United States and became one of the voices of the Local Color movement.

Principles Of Realism

1. Insistence upon and defense of "the experienced commonplace".
2. Character more important than plot.
3. Attack upon romanticism and romantic writers.
4. Emphasis upon morality often self-realized and upon an examination of idealism.
5. Concept of realism as a realization of democracy.

Identifying Characteristics Of Realistic Writing

1. The philosophy of Realism is known as "descendental" or non-transcendental. The purpose of writing is to instruct and to entertain. Realists were pragmatic, relativistic, democratic, and experimental.
2. The subject matter of Realism is drawn from "our experience," - it treated the common, the average, the non-extreme, the representative, the probable.

Identifying Characteristics Of Realistic Writing

3. The morality of Realism is intrinsic, integral, relativistic - relations between people and society are explored.
4. The style of Realism is the vehicle which carries realistic philosophy, subject matter, and morality. Emphasis is placed upon scenic presentation, de-emphasizing authorial comment and evaluation. There is an objection towards the omniscient point of view.

Realistic Elements of the Story

- The speech of California mining camps is reproduced accurately -- *"It's agin justice to let this yer young man from Roaring Camp -- an entire stranger -- carry away our money."*
- The setting and descriptions of those settings are realistic: *". . .the party soon passed out of the moist, temperate regions of the foot-hills, into the dry, cold bracing air of the Sierras."*

Local Color

A subdivision of Realism, local color writing attempts to portray accurate dialect patterns, speech, mannerisms, thought, and topography of a specific region. Often using eccentrics as characters and possessing a whimsical humor, local color pieces lack the seriousness of Realism although they provide a verisimilitude of detail. The Local Color Movement began in the 1880s in America and used short stories as its principal medium.

Local Color

Regionalism, or local-color fiction, was a perspective of literature that gained popularity in the United States after the Civil War. Local-color writers depicted nearly every region of the United States, leading realism to their stories by describing customs and manners and re-creating dialects. Because these authors usually set their stories in their regions as they remembered them from their own youth, they often blended realism with nostalgic sentiment.

Tasks and Activities

Instructions:

1. You *may* work with one other student. (yes, that means two may work together, not three or more).
One paper with two names is acceptable, all will receive the same grade.
2. Use a full sheet of paper. Properly title the paper. Neatly print each student's name who is to earn credit for the assignment. Indicate the period and date.
3. Work must be legible and written in black or blue ink.
4. Write the complete question or task statement. Then answer fully, with complete sentences and proper grammar and punctuation.
5. Vocabulary will be tested individually.
6. This assignment is due at the end of the period. Stay on task and get the work done.

Foreshadowing

Find two examples of Foreshadowing in the story.

Write out the direct quotation from the story then explain how it is foreshadowing, how it predicts events to come in the story. You must indicate the event it foreshadows in the story. Your explanation must be explicit and clear.

Allusions

Identify four examples of Allusion in the The Outcasts of Poker Flat. If you are not sure of what an allusion is, look it up in the text beginning on page R1.

What is specifically alluded to?

What does the allusion bring to Harte's story?

Theme and Naturalism

- In what ways is this short story's theme supporting the idea of Naturalism?
- Besides using specific examples from weather, (use these and more) how is this Harte story a prime example of naturalism?

Personification

- Personification is a literary term for the techniques of endowing animals or inanimate objects with human characteristics.
- How does Harte personify the sun?

Character Growth

- Characters who change during the course of a story are dynamic.
- How does Mother Shipton change?
- What decision does she make that indicated a change in her character. What is the effect of this change upon the reader's opinion of the character Mother Shipton?

Symbolism

At the end of the story Hart presents an image of the women, frozen, with peaceful expression on their faces.

What might this symbolize?

Student Generated Questions

You are to write out five questions that you do not understand about the story. Use complete sentences.

You are to write three question about the story that you might expect to be on a test. The questions must begin with the words indicated on the next slide.

Student Generated Questions

Three questions must begin with the wording below. All refer to the text. Make sure all questions make sense and have concrete answers. Answers must be provided.

- What elements would you choose to change ...
- What conclusions can you draw ...
- What is the relationship between ...
- What choice would you have made ...
- Can you assess the value or importance of ...

Character List and Description

Make a Character chart with the following information.

1. Make a list of all speaking characters in the story.
2. Provide the following for each character.
3. Age /Sex
4. Type of Character, Round or Flat, Dynamic or Static
5. Brief description of the character – At least two complete sentences are

Vocabulary

IMPROPRIETY
EXPATRIATED
EQUANIMITY
JOCULAR
SECLUSION
QUERULOUS
OMINOUS
BANISHMENT
INTIMIDATION
CAVALCADE
COQUETRY
ANATHEMA
PRESCIENCE
MAUDLIN
BESTIRRED
COMELY
CONTORTIONS
TETHERED

REPLENISH
PRUDENCE
OCCULT
EXTEMPORIZED
CACHED
DEBARRED
BEGUILED
OSTENTATIOUSLY
CASTANETS
PINNACLE
VITUPERATIVE
SUBLIMITY
FORSOOK
ASUNDER
SENTENTIIOUSLY
COMMISERATION
PASTORAL
DISSUADE

PROVISION
BELLICOSE
CONJECTURE
MALEVOLENCE
MALEDICTION
IMPASSIVENESS
RECUMBENT
DAMSEL
VERNACULAR
HYPOTHESIS

The End