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QUESTION and FORM in Literature



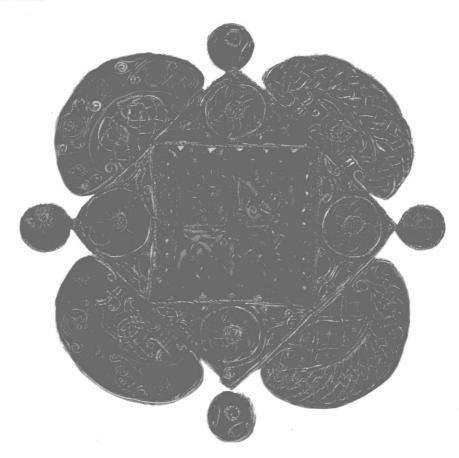
MEDALLION EDITION • AMERICA READS

QUESTION and FORM in Literature

James E. Miller, Jr.

Roseann Dueñas Gonzalez

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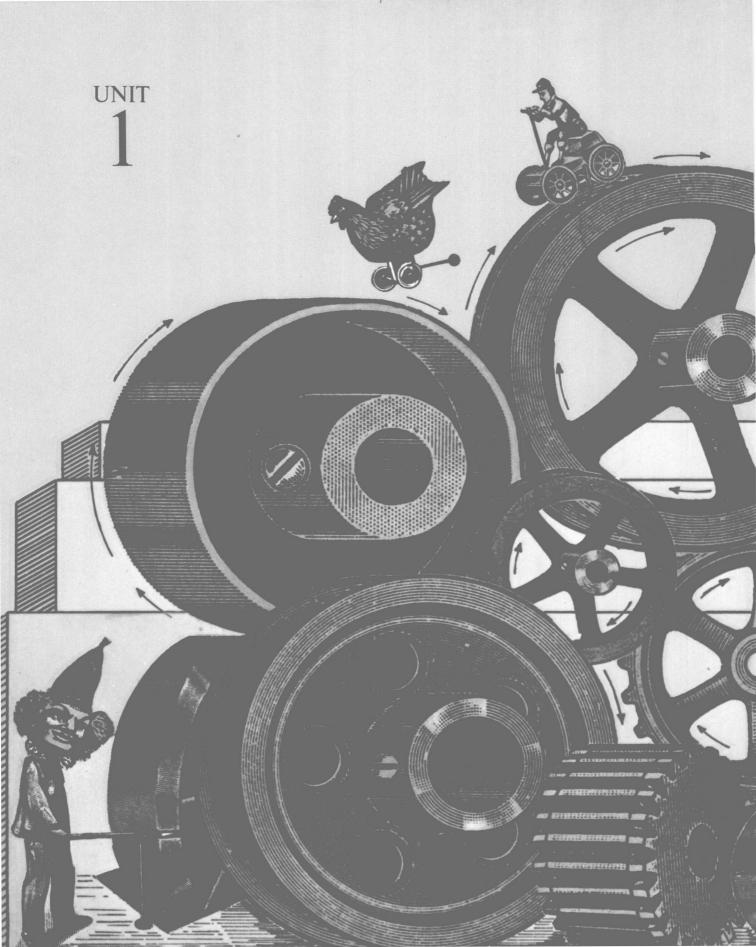
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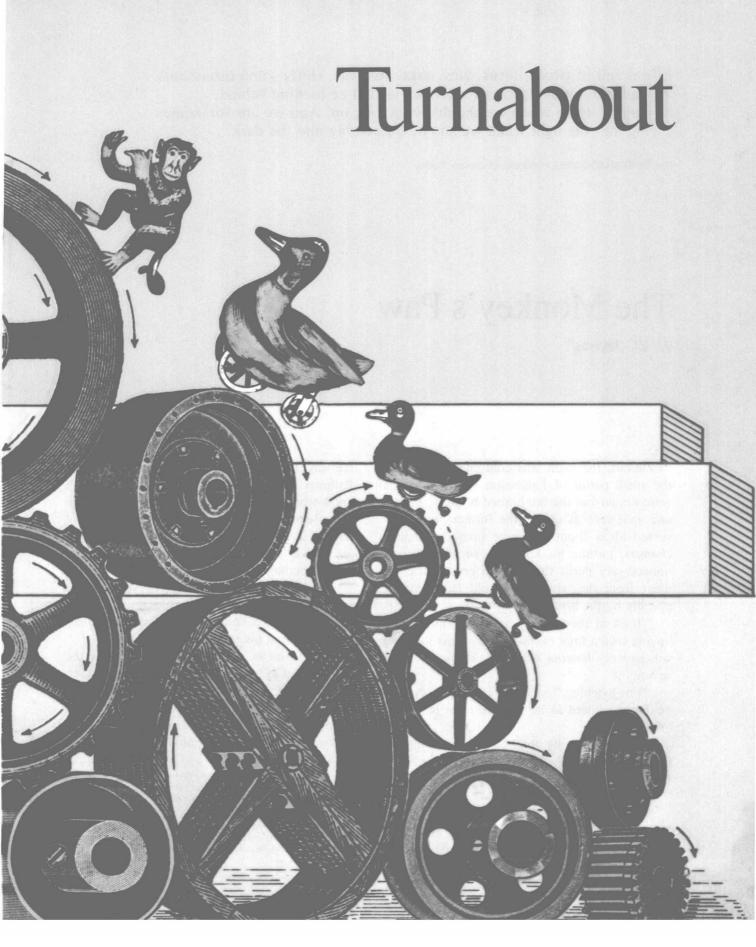
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Life is full of twists, turns, zigs, zags, swerves, shifts—and turnabouts. We are often looking ahead when we should be looking behind, or looking down when we should be looking up. And we are sometimes gazing into the light when we should be peering into the dark. . . .

See FORESHADOWING Handbook of Literary Terms

The Monkey's Paw

W. W. Jacobs

Without, the night was cold and wet, but in the small parlor of Lakesnam Villa the blinds were drawn and the fire burned brightly. Father and son were at chess, the former, who possessed ideas about the game involving radical changes, putting his king into such sharp and unnecessary perils that it even provoked comment from the white-haired old lady knitting placidly by the fire.

"Hark at the wind," said Mr. White, who, having seen a fatal mistake after it was too late, was amiably desirous of preventing his son from seeing it.

"I'm listening," said the latter, grimly surveying the board as he stretched out his hand. "Check."

"I should hardly think that he'd come tonight," said his father, with his hand poised over the board.

"Mate," replied the son.

"That's the worst of living so far out," bawled Mr. White, with sudden and unlooked-for violence; "of all the beastly, slushy, out-of-

the-way places to live in, this is the worst. Pathway's a bog, and the road's a torrent. I don't know what people are thinking about. I suppose because only two houses on the road are let, they think it doesn't matter."

"Never mind, dear," said his wife soothingly; "perhaps you'll win the next one."

Mr. White looked up sharply, just in time to intercept a knowing glance between mother and son. The words died away on his lips, and he had a guilty grin in his thin gray beard.

"There he is," said Herbert White, as the gate banged to loudly and heavy footsteps came toward the door.

The old man rose with hospitable haste, and opening the door, was heard condoling with the new arrival. The new arrival also condoled with

From THE LADY OF THE BARGE by W. W. Jacobs. Reprinted by permission of The Society of Authors as the literary representative of the Estate of W. W. Jacobs.

 Check, a call made by a chess player to warn his opponent that the opponent's king piece is in danger and must be moved. When a chess player makes the winning move that will capture his opponent's king, he calls "Mate."

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