

75
READINGS:
AN
ANTHOLOGY

Second Edition



75 READINGS: AN ANTHOLOGY

Second Edition

McGRAW-HILL BOOK COMPANY

New York St. Louis San Francisco Auckland
Bogotá Caracas Colorado Springs Hamburg
Lisbon London Madrid Mexico Milan Montreal
New Delhi Oklahoma City Panama Paris San Juan
São Paulo Singapore Sydney Tokyo Toronto

In special appreciation
Santi Buscemi
Middlesex County College

This book was set in Times Roman by the College Composition Unit in cooperation with General Graphic Services, Inc.
The editors were Susan D. Hurtt and Bernadette Boylan;
the production supervisor was Salvador Gonzales.
The cover was designed by Joan E. O'Connor.
Cover illustration by Jane Moorman.
Arcata Graphics/Fairfield was printer and binder.

Acknowledgments appear on pages 373-378 by reference.

75 READINGS: AN ANTHOLOGY

Copyright © 1989 by McGraw-Hill, Inc. All rights reserved.
Formerly published under the title of *75 Readings: A Freshman Anthology*.
Copyright © 1987 by McGraw-Hill, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed in the United States of America. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a data base or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 FGR FGR 8 9 3 2 1 0 9 8

ISBN 0-07-011824-8

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

75 readings

Includes index.

1. College readers. 2. English language--Rhetoric.

I. Title: Seventy-five readings.

PE1417.A13 1989 808'.0427 88-23122

ISBN 0-07-011824-8

PREFACE

75 Readings: An Anthology is strategically designed to introduce students to a broad variety of both traditional and contemporary essays. This rhetorically organized collection—comprising a total of 75 essays—includes classic selections as well as very topical pieces representing international, ethnic, and women writers. The primary aim has been to expose students to a range of styles while retaining maximum pedagogical flexibility for the instructor. Comprehensive apparatus, prepared by Professor Santi Buscemi of Middlesex County College, is provided separately in the Instructor's Manual to allow teachers greater flexibility in reading and writing assignments. Developed for each essay, the apparatus includes Author's Biography, Vocabulary, Questions for Discussion, and Suggestions for Writing. The apparatus is also available on Ditto Masters.

Special thanks are due to those instructors who reviewed the anthology and gave us their suggestions for the second edition: Tony Dallas, Wilmington College; Patricia Kennedy, Holyoke Community College; Stephen O'Neill, Bucks County Community College; Wendy Rader-Konofalski, Seattle Central Community College; Richard Rouillard, Oklahoma City Commu-

nity College; Margaret Smith, New River Community College, and Sharon Thompson, Wilmington College.

In addition, Charlotte Smith and the following people at McGraw-Hill helped to bring this project to fruition: Emily Barrosse, Sue Hurtt, Phillip A. Butcher, Bill Mullaney, Bernadette Boylan, and Sal Gonzales.

CONTENTS

THEMATIC CONTENTS ix

PREFACE xv

CHAPTER 1 Narration

George Orwell	<i>Shooting an Elephant</i>	1
Langston Hughes	<i>Salvation</i>	8
Maya Angelou	<i>Grandmother's Victory</i>	11
James Thurber	<i>University Days</i>	16
William Zinsser	<i>The Transaction</i>	22
Stephen Leacock	<i>Roughing It in the Bush (My Plans for Moose-Hunting in the Canadian Wilderness)</i>	25
Maxine Hong Kingston	<i>The Wild Man of the Green Swamp</i>	29
Richard Selzer	<i>The Discus Thrower</i>	32

CHAPTER 2 Description

Margaret Laurence	<i>Where the World Began</i>	36
Joan Didion	<i>The Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador</i>	42
Edward Hoagland	<i>The Courage of Turtles</i>	44
E. B. White	<i>Once More to the Lake</i>	51
Mordecai Richler	<i>Main Street</i>	58
Virginia Woolf	<i>The Death of the Moth</i>	67
Peter Freundlich	<i>The Crime of the Tooth: Dentistry in the Chair</i>	70
Doris Lessing	<i>My Father</i>	78

CHAPTER 3

Process

Alexander Petrunkevich <i>The Spider and the Wasp</i>	87
Rachel Carson <i>The Grey Beginnings</i>	92
Euell Gibbons <i>How to Cook a Carp</i>	102
Jessica Mitford <i>Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain</i>	106
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley <i>Introduction to Frankenstein</i>	115
Peter Elbow <i>Desperation Writing</i>	119
Richard Howey <i>How to Write a Rotten Poem with Almost No Effort</i>	123

CHAPTER 4

Definition

Bruno Bettelheim <i>The Holocaust</i>	126
Susan Sontag <i>Beauty</i>	129
Joseph Epstein <i>The Virtues of Ambition</i>	132
Simone de Beauvoir <i>The Discovery and Assumption of Old Age</i>	137
Jo Goodwin Parker <i>What is Poverty?</i>	140
Tom Wolfe <i>Pornoviolence</i>	145
Dorothy Parker <i>Good Souls</i>	152

CHAPTER 5

Division and Classification

William Golding <i>Thinking as a Hobby</i>	157
Erika Ritter <i>Bicycles</i>	165
Kildare Dobbs <i>Canada's Regions</i>	168
James David Barber <i>Presidential Character and How to Foresee It</i>	173
David Ludlum <i>The Climythology of America</i>	179
Robert Brusteine <i>Reflections on Horror Movies</i>	187
Susan Allen Toth <i>Cinematypes</i>	197

CHAPTER 6

Comparison and Contrast

Bruce Catton <i>Grant and Lee: A Study in Contrasts</i>	201
Jeff Greenfield <i>The Black and White Truth about Basketball: A Skin-Deep Theory of Style</i>	205
Murray Ross <i>Football Red and Baseball Green</i>	211
Mark Twain <i>Two Views of the Mississippi</i>	220
May Sarton <i>The Rewards of Living a Solitary Life</i>	222
Marie Winn <i>Viewing vs. Reading</i>	223
Ralph Waldo Emerson <i>Conservatives and Liberals</i>	231

CHAPTER 7

Example and Illustration

Ann Hodgman <i>Backwater Cuisine</i>	235
William F. Buckley, Jr. <i>Why Don't We Complain?</i>	238
Richard Rodriguez <i>Does America Still Exist?</i>	244
Joyce Maynard <i>I Remember...</i>	248
Robertson Davies <i>A Few Kind Words for Superstition</i>	252
Stephen Jay Gould <i>Were Dinosaurs Dumb?</i>	255
Peter Farb and George Armelagos <i>The Patterns of Eating</i>	261

CHAPTER 8

Cause and Effect

Marya Mannes <i>How Do You Know It's Good?</i>	267
Isaac Asimov <i>Why We Must Control Population Growth</i>	274
Norman Cousins <i>Pain Is Not the Ultimate Enemy</i>	277
E. M. Forster <i>My Wood</i>	281
Ellen Goodman <i>Watching the Grasshopper Get the Goodies</i>	285
Margaret Atwood <i>Canadians: What Do They Want?</i>	287
Lewis Thomas <i>The Iks</i>	291
Nadine Gordimer <i>Art and the State in South Africa</i>	294

CHAPTER 9

Analogy

Plato <i>The Myth of the Cave</i>	301
Horace Miner <i>Body Ritual among the Nacirema</i>	305
Ann Dillard <i>Transfiguration</i>	311
James C. Rettie "But a Watch in the Night": <i>A Scientific Fable</i>	315
Loren Eiseley <i>The Cosmic Prison</i>	321
Barry Lopez <i>My Horse</i>	324
Farley Mowat <i>The Perfect House</i>	330
Albert Camus <i>The Myth of Sisyphus</i>	335

CHAPTER 10

Argument

Jonathan Swift <i>A Modest Proposal</i>	339
Lindsay Van Gelder <i>The Great Person-Hole Cover</i> <i>Debate: A Modest Proposal for Anyone Who Thinks</i> <i>the Word 'He' Is Just Plain Easier</i>	347
Judy Syfers <i>Why I Want a Wife</i>	350
H. L. Mencken <i>The Penalty of Death</i>	352
Thomas Jefferson <i>The Declaration of Independence</i>	355
Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>I Have a Dream</i>	359
Alan Paton <i>Eight Signposts to Salvation</i>	364
Walter Murdoch <i>On Rabbits, Morality, Etc.</i>	367

Acknowledgments	373
-----------------	-----

THEMATIC CONTENTS

Perspectives on Existence

- Isaac Asimov *Why We Must Control Population Growth* 274
Albert Camus *The Myth of Sisyphus* 335
Rachel Carson *The Grey Beginnings* 92
Loren Eiseley *The Cosmic Prison* 321
Stephen Jay Gould *Were Dinosaurs Dumb?* 255
Edward Hoagland *The Courage of Turtles* 44
Plato *The Myth of the Cave* 301
James C. Rettie "But a Watch in the Night":
 A Scientific Fable 315
May Sarton *The Rewards of Living a Solitary Life* 222
Virginia Woolf *The Death of the Moth* 67

Growing Up, Growing Old

- Maya Angelou *Grandmother's Victory* 11
Simone de Beauvoir *The Discovery and Assumption
 of Old Age* 137
Norman Cousins *Pain Is Not the Ultimate Enemy* 277
William Golding *Thinking as a Hobby* 157
Langston Hughes *Salvation* 8
Doris Lessing *My Father* 78

Richard Selzer <i>The Discus Thrower</i>	32
James Thurber <i>University Days</i>	16
E. B. White <i>Once More to the Lake</i>	51

Life in America

William F. Buckley, Jr. <i>Why Don't We Complain?</i>	238
Euell Gibbons <i>How To Cook a Carp</i>	102
Ellen Goodman <i>Watching the Grasshopper Get the Goodies</i>	285
Ann Hodgman <i>Backwater Cuisine</i>	235
Barry Lopez <i>My Horse</i>	324
Jessica Mitford <i>Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain</i>	106
Jo Goodwin Parker <i>What Is Poverty?</i>	140
Mark Twain <i>Two Views of the Mississippi</i>	220

Canadian Voices

Margaret Atwood <i>Canadians: What Do They Want?</i>	287
Robertson Davies <i>A Few Kind Words for Superstition</i>	252
Kildare Dobbs <i>Canada's Regions</i>	168
Margaret Laurence <i>Where the World Began</i>	36
Stephen Leacock <i>Roughing It in the Bush (My Plans for Moose-Hunting in the Canadian Wilderness)</i>	25
Farley Mowat <i>The Perfect House</i>	330
Mordecai Richler <i>Main Street</i>	58
Erika Ritter <i>Bicycles</i>	165

Power and Politics

James David Barber <i>Presidential Character and How to Foresee It</i>	173
--	-----

Bruce Catton <i>Grant and Lee: A Study in Contrasts</i>	201
Joan Didion <i>The Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador</i>	42
Ralph Waldo Emerson <i>Conservatives and Liberals</i>	231
Nadine Gordimer <i>Art and the State in South Africa</i>	294
Thomas Jefferson <i>The Declaration of Independence</i>	355
Martin Luther King, Jr. <i>I Have a Dream</i>	359
George Orwell <i>Shooting an Elephant</i>	1
Alan Paton <i>Eight Signposts to Salvation</i>	364
Richard Rodriguez <i>Does America Still Exist?</i>	244
Lewis Thomas <i>The Iks</i>	291

Problems, Solutions, and Consequences

Isaac Asimov <i>Why We Must Control Population Growth</i>	274
Euell Gibbons <i>How to Cook a Carp</i>	102
H. L. Mencken <i>The Penalty of Death</i>	352
Farley Mowat <i>The Perfect House</i>	330
Walter Murdoch <i>On Rabbits, Morality, Etc.</i>	367
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley <i>Introduction to Frankenstein</i>	115
Jonathan Swift <i>A Modest Proposal</i>	339
Judy Syfers <i>Why I Want a Wife</i>	350
Lewis Thomas <i>The Iks</i>	291

Territory and Competition

Kildare Dobbs <i>Canada's Regions</i>	168
Joseph Epstein <i>The Virtues of Ambition</i>	132
E. M. Forster <i>My Wood</i>	281
Jeff Greenfield <i>The Black and White Truth about Basketball: A Skin-Deep Theory of Style</i>	205
Ann Hodgman <i>Backwater Cuisine</i>	235
Alexander Petrunkevitch <i>The Spider and the Wasp</i>	89
Murray Ross <i>Football Red and Baseball Green</i>	211

Cultural Rules of Form and Behavior

- Peter Farb and George Armelagos *The Patterns of Eating* 261
 Ellen Goodman *Watching the Grasshopper Get the Goodies* 285
 Nadine Gordimer *Art and the State in South Africa* 294
 Marya Mannes *How Do You Know It's Good?* 267
 Horace Miner *Body Ritual among the Nacirema* 305
 Dorothy Parker *Good Souls* 152
 Lewis Thomas *The Ilks* 291

The Evolution of Science and Technology

- Isaac Asimov *Why We Must Control Population Growth* 274
 Peter Freundlich *The Crime of the Tooth: Dentistry in the Chair* 70
 David M. Ludlum *Climythyology* 179
 Jessica Mitford *Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain* 106
 James C. Rettie "But a Watch in the Night":
 A Scientific Fable 315
 Erika Ritter *Bicycles* 165
 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley *Introduction to Frankenstein* 115
 Marie Winn *Viewing vs. Reading* 223

Manifestations of Fear

- Robert Brustein *Reflections on Horror Movies* 187
 Albert Camus *The Myth of Sisyphus* 335
 Norman Cousins *Pain Is Not the Ultimate Enemy* 277
 Robertson Davies *A Few Kind Words for Superstition* 252
 Peter Freundlich *The Crime of the Tooth: Dentistry in the Chair* 70

Maxine Hong Kingston <i>The Wild Man of the Green Swamp</i>	29
George Orwell <i>Shooting an Elephant</i>	1
Richard Selzer <i>The Discus Thrower</i>	32
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley <i>Introduction to Frankenstein</i>	115

On Media

Robert Brustein <i>Reflections on Horror Movies</i>	187
Maxine Hong Kingston <i>The Wild Man of the Green Swamp</i>	29
Joyce Maynard <i>I Remember...</i>	248
Susan Allen Toth <i>Cinematypes</i>	197
Marie Winn <i>Viewing vs. Reading</i>	223
Tom Wolfe <i>Pornoviolence</i>	145

On Language and the Writing Process

Bruno Bettelheim <i>The Holocaust</i>	126
Annie Dillard <i>Transfiguration</i>	311
Peter Elbow <i>Desperation Writing</i>	119
Richard Howey <i>How to Write a Rotten Poem</i> <i>with Almost No Effort</i>	123
Marya Mannes <i>How Do You Know It's Good?</i>	267
Susan Sontag <i>Beauty</i>	129
Lindsay Van Gelder <i>The Great Person-Hole Cover Debate:</i> <i>A Modest Proposal for Anyone Who Thinks the Word 'He'</i> <i>Is Just Plain Easier...</i>	347
William Zinsser <i>The Transaction</i>	22

1

Narration

Shooting an Elephant

George Orwell

In Moulmein, in lower Burma, I was hated by large numbers of people—the only time in my life that I have been important enough for this to happen to me. I was subdivisional police officer of the town, and in an aimless, petty kind of way anti-European feeling was very bitter. No one had the guts to raise a riot, but if a European woman went through the bazaars alone somebody would probably spit betel juice over her dress. As a police officer I was an obvious target and was baited whenever it seemed safe to do so. When a nimble Burman tripped me up on the football field and the referee (another Burman) looked the other way, the crowd yelled with hideous laughter. This happened more than once. In the end the sneering yellow faces of young men that met me everywhere, the insults hooted after me when I was at a safe distance, got badly on my nerves. The young Buddhist priests were the worst of all. There were several thousands of them in the town and none of them seemed to have anything to do except stand on street corners and jeer at Europeans.

All this was perplexing and upsetting. For at that time I had already made up my mind that imperialism was an evil thing and the sooner I chucked up my job and got out of it the better. The-

oretically—and secretly, of course—I was all for the Burmese and all against their oppressors, the British. As for the job I was doing, I hated it more bitterly than I can perhaps make clear. In a job like that you see the dirty work of Empire at close quarters. The wretched prisoners huddling in the stinking cages of the lock-ups, the gray, cowed faces of the long-term convicts, the scarred buttocks of the men who had been flogged with bamboos—all these oppressed me with an intolerable sense of guilt. But I could get nothing into perspective. I was young and ill educated and I had had to think out my problems in the utter silence that is imposed on every Englishman in the East. I did not even know that the British Empire is dying, still less did I know that it is a great deal better than the younger empires that are going to supplant it. All I knew was that I was stuck between my hatred of the empire I served and my rage against the evil-spirited little beasts who tried to make my job impossible. With one part of my mind I thought of the British Raj as an unbreakable tyranny, as something clamped down, in *saecula saeculorum*, upon the will of prostrate peoples; with another part I thought that the greatest joy in the world would be to drive a bayonet into a Buddhist priest's guts. Feelings like these are the normal by-products of imperialism; ask any Anglo-Indian official, if you can catch him off duty.

One day something happened which in a roundabout way 3 was enlightening. It was a tiny incident in itself; but it gave me a better glimpse than I had had before of the real nature of imperialism—the real motives for which despotic governments act. Early one morning the sub-inspector at a police station the other end of the town rang me up on the 'phone and said that an elephant was ravaging the bazaar. Would I please come and do something about it? I did not know what I could do, but I wanted to see what was happening and I got on to a pony and started out. I took my rifle, an old .44 Winchester and much too small to kill an elephant, but I thought the noise might be useful *in terrorem*. Various Burmans stopped me on the way and told me about the elephant's doings. It was not, of course, a wild elephant, but a tame one which had gone "must." It had been chained up, as tame elephants always are when their attack of

"must" is due, but on the previous night it had broken its chain and escaped. Its mahout, the only person who could manage it when it was in that state, had set out in pursuit, but had taken the wrong direction and was now twelve hours' journey away, and in the morning the elephant had suddenly reappeared in the town. The Burmese population had no weapons and were quite helpless against it. It had already destroyed somebody's bamboo hut, killed a cow and raided some fruit-stalls and devoured the stock; also it had met the municipal rubbish van and, when the driver jumped out and took to his heels, had turned the van over and inflicted violence upon it.

The Burmese sub-inspector and some Indian constables were waiting for me in the quarter where the elephant had been seen. It was a very poor quarter, a labyrinth of squalid bamboo huts, thatched with palm-leaf, winding all over a steep hillside. I remember that it was a cloudy, stuffy morning at the beginning of the rains. We began questioning the people as to where the elephant had gone and, as usual, failed to get any definite information. That is invariably the case in the East; a story always sounds clear enough at a distance, but the nearer you get to the scene of events the vaguer it becomes. Some of the people said that the elephant had gone in one direction, some said that he had gone in another, some professed not even to have heard of any elephant. I had almost made up my mind that the whole story was a pack of lies, when we heard yells a little distance away. There was a loud, scandalized cry of "Go away, child! Go away this instant!" and an old woman with a switch in her hand came round the corner of a hut, violently shooing away a crowd of naked children. Some more women followed, clicking their tongues and exclaiming; evidently there was something that the children ought not to have seen. I rounded the hut and saw a man's dead body sprawling in the mud. He was an Indian, a black Dravidian coolie, almost naked, and he could not have been dead many minutes. The people said that the elephant had come suddenly upon him round the corner of the hut, caught him with its trunk, put its foot on his back and ground him into the earth. This was the rainy season and the ground was soft, and his face had scored a trench a foot deep and a couple of yards long. 4