SIXTH EDITI



LITERATURE STRUCTURE, SOUND, AND SENSE

LAURENCE PERRINE THOMAS R. ARP

SIXTH EDITION

LITERATURE

STRUCTURE, SOUND, AND SENSE



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Preface

Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense is intended for the student who is beginning a serious study of imaginative literature. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the principal forms of fiction, poetry, and drama. Each section begins with a simple discussion of the elements of the form and is illustrated, throughout, by carefully selected stories, poems, and plays. Each section also includes an anthology of additional selections for further reading. In this book we seek to give the student a sufficient grasp of the nature and variety of literary works, some reasonable means for reading them with appreciative understanding, and some basic principles for making literary judgments. Our objective is to help the student to understand, enjoy, and prefer good works of literature.

Each of the three sections has been revised for this sixth edition. The number of stories has been increased to forty-six, thirteen of them new to this edition. At the request of readers of the fifth edition, unobtrusive paragraph numbers have been added to the fiction section. There has been a 15 percent increase in the total number of poems as well as an increase in contemporary and modern poems. As in previous editions, three poets (Dickinson, Donne, and Frost) are represented by a sufficient number of poems to support study of them as individual artists. Four of the twelve plays are new. And the number of works by women and by members of ethnic minorities (and the number of writers representing these groups) has again been increased.

For assistance and advice in the making and remaking of this book I am indebted to many persons, and I have expressed my gratitude to them by name in earlier editions.

With this edition, Thomas R. Arp, my able and marvelously efficient assistant in the fourth and fifth editions, is elevated in status and duties to coauthor. He has clearly seen the intent of each part of the book and how it integrates with the other parts. In this edition he has participated fully in the selection of poems and has played the major role in selecting the stories and plays, and he has rewritten and improved parts of the text

and seen it through the stages of publication. He fully deserves this new position and in future editions will carry forward the traditions that began with the first edition (1970), but he will also be open to new ideas, new questions, and new writers. I warmly welcome Tom to his role as coauthor.

L.P.

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