



# 75

## READINGS

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AN ANTHOLOGY

SIXTH EDITION

# *75 Readings*

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SIXTH EDITION



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*SANTI BUSCEMI* teaches reading and writing and chairs the English Department at Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey.

*CHARLOTTE SMITH* teaches English composition and technical writing at Adirondack Community College in Queensbury, New York.

*To Emily Barrosse*

# Preface

*75 Readings: An Anthology* is designed to introduce students to a range of traditional and contemporary essays, as well as to topical pieces by international, ethnically diverse, and female writers. The primary aim of this book is to provide the reader with a variety of rhetorical purposes, writing styles, and topics, while retaining maximum pedagogical flexibility for the instructor. We have looked for essays that provide good structural models for rhetorical strategies and that raise complex questions about current or ongoing issues. Thus, the essays do not need to be used merely to illustrate form. Because there is no pedagogical apparatus to direct such use, the anthology can easily be used with a variety of teaching approaches.

The sixth edition features twelve new readings. For this edition we focused on updating the book by removing one or two essays from each of the nine chapters. These essays had been in the book for many editions and thus were replaced with more current essays on a range of topics. Because we added several new additions to Chapter 10 in the last edition, this chapter has no changes. Three of the new readings, those by James Baldwin (Chapter 2), Judith Viorst (Chapter 5), and Philip Meyer (Chapter 8), are well-known essays and can be counted on to promote lively discussion. Another of the new

selections is an essay by Barry Lopez (Chapter 1), an author whose essays have appeared in all previous editions; this new selection, although difficult, presents intriguing ideas about the power of narrative.

Other new topics include beekeeping (Sue Hubbell, Chapter 3), painting frescoes (Adam Goodheart, Chapter 3), the northern lights (Claudia Glenn Dowling, Chapter 4), and television talk shows (Nicols Fox, Chapter 9). We also have continued to include essays on culture and language, such as the essays by John Leo (Chapter 4), Lydia Minatoya (Chapter 6), Edward T. Hall (Chapter 7), and Kathy A. Svitil (Chapter 8).

An instructor's manual, prepared by Santi V. Buscemi of Middlesex County College, Skillman, New Jersey, and Charlotte Smith of Adirondack Community College, Queensbury, New York, provides brief author biographies, discussion questions, and journal and paper assignments for each essay in the anthology.

### Acknowledgments

Special thanks are due to those instructors who reviewed the anthology and offered their suggestions for the sixth edition: Martha Balusek, San Jacinto College; Betty Bastankhah, San Jacinto College; Geoffrey Bellah, Orange Coast College; Michel de Benedictis, Miami Dade Community College; Sue Bennett, New Mexico Junior College; Timothy J. Dillon, Monroe County Community College; Marilyn Kennedy, Orange Coast College; Kathleen Mayberry, Lehigh Carbon Community College; Jane Mills, Santa Rosa Junior College; C. C. Noordhoorn, Oakland Community College; Hartley Pond, Santa Rosa Junior College; Mary Roberti, Monroe County Community College; and T. Scambray, Fresno City College.

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*Santi V. Buscemi*  
*Charlotte Smith*

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# *Narration*

## *A Hanging*

George Orwell

It was in Burma, a sodden morning of the rains. A sickly 1  
light, like yellow tinfoil, was slanting over the high walls into  
the jail yard. We were waiting outside the condemned cells, a  
row of sheds fronted with double bars, like small animal cages.  
Each cell measured about ten feet by ten and was quite bare  
within except for a plank bed and a pot of drinking water. In  
some of them brown silent men were squatting at the inner  
bars, with their blankets draped round them. These were the  
condemned men, due to be hanged within the next week or  
two.

One prisoner had been brought out of his cell. He was a 2  
Hindu, a puny wisp of a man, with a shaven head and vague  
liquid eyes. He had a thick, sprouting moustache, absurdly too  
big for his body, rather like the moustache of a comic man in  
the films. Six tall Indian warders were guarding him and get-  
ting him ready for the gallows. Two of them stood by with ri-  
fles and fixed bayonets, while the others handcuffed him,  
passed a chain through his handcuffs and fixed it to their belts,  
and lashed his arms tight to his sides. They crowded very close  
about him, with their hands always on him in a careful, caress-  
ing grip, as though all the while feeling him to make sure he was  
there. It was like men handling a fish which is still alive and may  
jump back into the water. But he stood quite unresisting, yield-