Contents

	Reading Fiction		1
1	What Is a Narrative? Some Basic Terms The Text-Types		7
	Alice Walker, "The Flowers"		9
	Getting the Point		11
	The Meanings of "Fiction"		13
	Kate Chopin, "Two Portraits"		14
	Story and Discourse		18
	Suggestions for Writing		19
2	Plot		20
_	Definition of Plot		20
	Closed and Open Plots		21
	Story-Time and Discourse-Time		22
	Narrative Order and Duration		23
	Carson McCullers, "A Tree · A Rock · A Cloud"		27
	Margaret Atwood, "The Sin Eater"		34
	Joyce Carol Oates, "Four Summers"		43
	Suggestions for Writing		57
3	Character and Setting		58
9	Character: A Definition		58
	Characterization		61
	Setting		62
	Isaac Bashevis Singer, "Short Friday"		66
	Isaac Babel, "How It Was Done in Odessa"		75
	Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens"		83
	Suggestions for Writing		88
		χi	

4	Narration: Narrator and Narratee	90
•	Telling: Internal and External Narrators	90
	Showing: Impersonal Narration	92
	Omniscience and Limitation	93
	The Narratee	95
	Elizabeth Jolley, "Wednesdays and Fridays"	98
	Anton Chekhov, "The Darling"	104
	Sarah Orne Jewett, "A White Heron"	114
	Tillie Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing"	122
	Suggestions for Writing	128
5	Point of View: Character's Filter and	
J	Narrator's Slant	130
		130
	Character's Filter	133
	The Filter-Character Is Not the Narrator	134
	Narrator's Slant	135
	The Grammar of Filter	139
	Filter in Internal Narration James Joyce, "A Little Cloud"	142
		153
	James Baldwin, "The Rockpile" Nadine Gordimer, "Town and Country Lovers"	160
	V. S. Naipaul, "The Thing Without A Name"	174
	Mary McCarthy, "C.Y.E."	179
	Suggestions for Writing	185
,	Suggestions for writing	10)
6	Narrative Irony	186
	Definitions of Situational and Verbal Irony	186
	Situational and Verbal Irony in Narrative Fiction	187
	Fallible Filters	188
	Unreliable Narration	190
	Albert Camus, "The Guest"	193
	Edith Wharton, "Roman Fever"	203
	Flannery O'Connor, "The River"	213
	Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart"	226
	Ring Lardner, "Haircut"	231
	Suggestions for Writing	239
7	Authors and Readers: Real and Implied	240
-	The Real Author	240
	The Implied Author	240
	The Implied Author Is Not the Narrator	242
	Problems Solved by the Notion of Implied Author	242
	The Real Jack London and Two Different Implied "Jack	
	Londons"	243
	The Real Reader and the Implied Reader	246

		CONTENTS	xiii
	The Implied Reader Is Not the Narratee Jack London, "The Unparalleled Invasion" Jack London, "The Apostate" Suggestions for Writing		247 248 258 271
	Theme and Ideology The Definition of "Theme" Thesis How to Formulate a Theme Ideology The Invisibility of Ideology Dealing with the Ideologies of Fictions William Faulkner, "Delta Autumn" Ernest Hemingway, "Indian Camp" Ama Ata Aidoo, "Certain Winds from the South" Suggestions for Writing		273 274 275 276 277 279 281 292 296 302
	Narrative Limits: Experimental and Postmodern Fiction Undermining Conventions Questioning the Discourse Attacks on the Discourse by the Story Julio Cortázar, "Continuity of Parks" Filter at Odds with Itself Jorge Luis Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths" John Barth, "Lost in the Funhouse" Julio Cortázar, "The Idol of the Cyclades" Suggestions for Writing		304 304 307 309 309 311 314 323 340 346
	Further Reading Donald Barthelme, "Me and Miss Mandible" Ann Beattie, "A Reasonable Man" Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridgelizabeth Bowen, "Careless Talk" Italo Calvino, "Big Fish, Little Fish" Samuel Clemens, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Carett"		347 348 356 363 370 374
3	County" Colette, "The Hand" Joseph Conrad, "The Secret Sharer" Stephen Crane, "Moonlight on the Snow" Isak Dinesen, "The Ring" Fyodor Dostoevsky, "Polzunkov"		380 385 388 416 425 430
	Ralph Ellison, "The Battle Royal" Gabriel Garcia Márquez, "Monologue of Isabel Watc Rain in Macondo"	ching It	441452

xiv CONTENTS

Franz Kafka, "A Hunger Artist" 47	63 76 83 94 13
Franz Kafka, "A Hunger Artist" 47	83 94 13
	94 13
	13
	-
	18
	30
Frank O'Connor, "The Drunkard" 53	39
Grace Paley, "The Long-Distance Runner" 54	47
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado" 55	58
Katherine Anne Porter, "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" 50	63
Amy Tan, "Jing-Mei Woo: Two Kinds" 5	70
Leo Tolstoy, "Three Deaths" 5	78
Kurt Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron" 58	89
Eudora Welty, "Why I Live at the P.O."	94
How to Write about Fiction 60	03
Glossary 69	25
Index 63	37