

This critical edition proposes to offer its readers an annotated anthology of poems and short stories from American literature, as prescribed by the University of Delhi under the current CBCS syllabus for students of B.A. (Honours) English. Along with a succinct chronology, this anthology provides an introduction to American Studies in India followed by informative headnotes on the two genres prescribed herein, namely poetry and short stories. The texts provide fairly detailed annotations and the two sections into which the book is divided are followed by well-researched articles by contemporary scholars of American Literature.

The critical readings on poetry and short stories raise pertinent questions rather than just providing settled understandings and readings of them. Furthermore, in the broad spectrum of interpretations that they do offer, they enable the readers to perceive literature of the Americas as both canonical and its obverse, while simultaneously raising issues related to race, gender and native populations. This anthology is an attempt to present a tenuous connection between America's past and its multi-ethnic present. Besides conveying the experiences of both the author and the reader in writing or receiving the text respectively, they depict literature as a contestable terrain where questions of genre formation, nation-making and the individual as a site of identity-creation and identity-in-crisis also emerge.

The last section covers the prescribed background topics along with a selected bibliography. This comprehensive anthology offers a spectrum of multifarious pertinent discourses and ideologies to enhance the students' understanding of what constitutes American Literature.

Prem Kumari Srivastava, Associate Professor, Department of English, Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi

Nidhi Madan, Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi



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Revisiting American Literature

Select Short Stories and Poems



Editors

Prem Kumari Srivastava
Nidhi Madan



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The American Short Story: Special Focus on Poe, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner

RITIKA SINGH

For sale: Baby shoes. Never worn.

– (Ernest Hemingway)

The history of the short story goes far back to the animal fables, legends, myths and oral narratives passed down from one generation to the next. It constitutes the art of storytelling itself. However, it was the twentieth-century that studied the short story not as a concise prose narrative but rather for the characteristics that give it its unique rubric. “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” by Washington Irving were two seminal successes that established the short story genre in the early nineteenth century, but it was Irving’s *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*, commonly referred to as *The Sketch Book*, that gave the short story form, the American locale. Compact sketches and tales employed by German writers like Ludwig Tieck, Wilhelm Kleist and E.T.A. Hoffmann were the main influences for the origin of