

CAMBRIDGE



RAHNAMA
P R E S S

@RAHNAMAPRESS
WWW.RAHNAMAPRESS.COM

Discovering Fiction

A READER OF NORTH AMERICAN SHORT STORIES

1



2nd Edition

Judith Kay

Rosemary Gelshenen

CONTENTS

About the Authors	v
To the Student	xviii
To the Instructor	xix
Highlights	xx

PART ONE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES 2

CHAPTER 1 Eleven SANDRA CISNEROS 4

A PREPARING TO READ 4

1 Think Before You Read	4
2 Picture Focus	5
3 Story Preview	5
4 Words to Know	5
5 Making Predictions	6
6 Idioms and Expressions	6
7 Literary Term: First Person Narrator	6

B THE STORY 7


C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY 10

1 Reading Comprehension	10
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	10
3 Word Forms	11
4 Grammar: Contractions	12

D THINKING CRITICALLY 14

1 Discussing the Story	14
2 Making Inferences	14
3 Analyzing the Story: First Person Narrator	15
4 Writing	15

CHAPTER 2 The Blanket	FLOYD DELL	16
A PREPARING TO READ		16
1 Think Before You Read		16
2 Picture Focus		16
3 Story Preview		17
4 Words to Know		17
5 Making Predictions		18
6 Idioms and Expressions		18
7 Literary Term: Poetic Justice		18
B THE STORY		19
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY		22
1 Reading Comprehension		22
2 Guessing Meaning from Context		22
3 Word Forms		24
4 Grammar: Phrasal Verbs		24
D THINKING CRITICALLY		26
1 Discussing the Story		26
2 Making Inferences		26
3 Analyzing the Story: Poetic Justice		27
4 Writing		27
CHAPTER 3 The Bracelet	YOSHIKO UCHIDA	28
A PREPARING TO READ		28
1 Think Before You Read		28
2 Picture Focus		28
3 Story Preview		29
4 Words to Know		29
5 Making Predictions		30
6 Idioms and Expressions		30
7 Literary Term: Setting		30
B THE STORY		31
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY		36
1 Reading Comprehension		36
2 Guessing Meaning from Context		36
3 Word Forms		37
4 Grammar: The Past Tense: Simple Versus Continuous		38

D THINKING CRITICALLY	40
1 Discussing the Story	40
2 Making Inferences	40
3 Analyzing the Story: Setting	41
4 Writing	41
SUMMING UP	42
A TAKE A CLOSER LOOK	42
1 Theme Comparison: Loneliness	42
2 Freewriting	42
B REVIEW	42
1 Idioms and Expressions Review	42
2 Form Review	43
 WebQuest	43
PART TWO THE UNEXPECTED	44
CHAPTER 4 A Secret for Two QUENTIN REYNOLDS	46
A PREPARING TO READ	46
1 Think Before You Read	46
2 Picture Focus	46
3 Story Preview	47
4 Words to Know	47
5 Making Predictions	48
6 Idioms and Expressions	48
7 Literary Term: Foreshadowing	48
B THE STORY	49
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	53
1 Reading Comprehension	53
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	53
3 Word Forms	54
4 Grammar: Prepositions of Place <i>on</i> , <i>in</i> , and <i>into</i>	54
D THINKING CRITICALLY	56
1 Discussing the Story	56
2 Making Inferences	56
3 Analyzing the Story: Foreshadowing	57
4 Writing	57

CHAPTER 5 Charles SHIRLEY JACKSON 58

A PREPARING TO READ 58

- 1 Think Before You Read 58
- 2 Picture Focus 58
- 3 Story Preview 59
- 4 Words to Know 59
- 5 Making Predictions 60
- 6 Idioms and Expressions 60
- 7 Literary Term: Characterization 60

B THE STORY 61

C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY 65

- 1 Reading Comprehension 65
- 2 Guessing Meaning from Context 65
- 3 Word Forms 66
- 4 Grammar: Articles with Count Nouns 66

D THINKING CRITICALLY 68

- 1 Discussing the Story 68
- 2 Making Inferences 68
- 3 Analyzing the Story: Characterization 69
- 4 Writing 69

CHAPTER 6 Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen O. HENRY 70


A PREPARING TO READ 70


- 1 Think Before You Read 70
- 2 Picture Focus 71
- 3 Story Preview 71
- 4 Words to Know 71
- 5 Making Predictions 72
- 6 Idioms and Expressions 72
- 7 Literary Term: Theme 72

B THE STORY 73

C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY 77

- 1 Reading Comprehension 77
- 2 Guessing Meaning from Context 77
- 3 Word Forms 78
- 4 Grammar: Agreement of Subject and Verb 78

D THINKING CRITICALLY	81
1 Discussing the Story	81
2 Making Inferences	81
3 Analyzing the Story: Theme	82
4 Writing	83
SUMMING UP	84
A TAKE A CLOSER LOOK	84
1 Theme Comparison: The Unexpected	84
2 Freewriting	84
B REVIEW	84
1 Idioms and Expressions Review	84
2 Form Review	85
 WebQuest	85
PART THREE TRAVELING THROUGH TIME	86
CHAPTER 7 The Fun They Had ISAAC ASIMOV	88
A PREPARING TO READ	88
1 Think Before You Read	88
2 Picture Focus	89
3 Story Preview	89
4 Words to Know	89
5 Making Predictions	90
6 Idioms and Expressions	90
7 Literary Term: Dialogue	90
B THE STORY	91
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	94
1 Reading Comprehension	94
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	94
3 Word Forms	96
4 Grammar: Pronouns, Possessives, Demonstratives	96

D THINKING CRITICALLY	98
1 Discussing the Story	98
2 Making Inferences	98
3 Analyzing the Story: Dialogue	98
4 Writing	99
CHAPTER 8 The Mirror JUDITH KAY	100
A PREPARING TO READ	100
1 Think Before You Read	100
2 Picture Focus	101
3 Story Preview	101
4 Words to Know	101
5 Making Predictions	102
6 Idioms and Expressions	102
7 Literary Term: Symbolism	102
B THE STORY	103
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	108
1 Reading Comprehension	108
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	108
3 Word Forms	109
4 Grammar: Count and Noncount Nouns	110
D THINKING CRITICALLY	112
1 Discussing the Story	112
2 Making Inferences	112
3 Analyzing the Story: Symbolism	113
4 Writing	113
SUMMING UP	114
A TAKE A CLOSER LOOK	114
1 Theme Comparison: Escape from Reality	114
2 Freewriting	114
B REVIEW	114
1 Idioms and Expressions Review	114
2 Form Review	115
 WebQuest	115

PART FOUR TURNING POINTS 116
CHAPTER 9 You Go Your Way, I'll Go Mine WILLIAM SAROYAN 118
A PREPARING TO READ 118

- 1 Think Before You Read 118
- 2 Picture Focus 119
- 3 Story Preview 119
- 4 Words to Know 119
- 5 Making Predictions 120
- 6 Idioms and Expressions 120
- 7 Literary Term: The Parts of a Plot 120

B THE STORY 121
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY 124

- 1 Reading Comprehension 124
- 2 Guessing Meaning from Context 124
- 3 Word Forms 125
- 4 Grammar: Adverbs Versus Adjectives 125

D THINKING CRITICALLY 128

- 1 Discussing the Story 128
- 2 Making Inferences 128
- 3 Analyzing the Story: The Parts of a Plot 129
- 4 Writing 129

CHAPTER 10 Blue Eyes Far Away MACKINLAY KANTOR 130
A PREPARING TO READ 130

- 1 Think Before You Read 130
- 2 Picture Focus 131
- 3 Story Preview 131
- 4 Words to Know 131
- 5 Making Predictions 132
- 6 Idioms and Expressions 132
- 7 Literary Term: Surprise Ending 132

B THE STORY 133

C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	136
1 Reading Comprehension	136
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	136
3 Word Forms	137
4 Grammar: Regular and Irregular Verbs	138
D THINKING CRITICALLY	140
1 Discussing the Story	140
2 Making Inferences	140
3 Analyzing the Story: Surprise Ending	141
4 Writing	141
CHAPTER 11 Home GWENDOLYN BROOKS	142
A PREPARING TO READ	142
1 Think Before You Read	142
2 Picture Focus	143
3 Story Preview	143
4 Words to Know	143
5 Making Predictions	144
6 Idioms and Expressions	144
7 Literary Term: Realism	144
B THE STORY	145
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	148
1 Reading Comprehension	148
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	148
3 Word Forms	150
4 Grammar: Future Time with <i>Would</i> and <i>Might</i>	150
D THINKING CRITICALLY	152
1 Discussing the Story	152
2 Making Inferences	152
3 Analyzing the Story: Realism	153
4 Writing	153

SUMMING UP	154
A TAKE A CLOSER LOOK	154
1 Theme Comparison: Loss	154
2 Freewriting	154
B REVIEW	154
1 Idioms and Expressions Review	154
2 Form Review	155
🖥️ WebQuest	155
PART FIVE: MEN AND WOMEN	156
CHAPTER 12 The Woman ZONA GALE	158
A PREPARING TO READ	158
1 Think Before You Read	158
2 Picture Focus	158
3 Story Preview	159
4 Words to Know	159
5 Making Predictions	160
6 Idioms and Expressions	160
7 Literary Term: Cause and Effect	160
B THE STORY	161
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	164
1 Reading Comprehension	164
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	164
3 Word Forms	166
4 Grammar: Possessive Nouns	166
D THINKING CRITICALLY	168
1 Discussing the Story	168
2 Making Inferences	168
3 Analyzing the Story: Cause and Effect	169
4 Writing	169

CHAPTER 13 The Tigress and Her Mate	JAMES THURBER	170
A PREPARING TO READ		170
1 Think Before You Read		170
2 Picture Focus		171
3 Story Preview		171
4 Words to Know		171
5 Making Predictions		172
6 Idioms and Expressions		172
7 Literary Term: Fable		172
B THE STORY		173
C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY		175
1 Reading Comprehension		175
2 Guessing Meaning from Context		175
3 Word Forms		176
4 Grammar: Comparative Adjectives and Adverbs		177
D THINKING CRITICALLY		179
1 Discussing the Story		179
2 Making Inferences		179
3 Analyzing the Story: Fable		180
4 Writing		181
CHAPTER 14 The Marriage	KATE CHOPIN	182
A PREPARING TO READ		182
1 Think Before You Read		182
2 Picture Focus		182
3 Story Preview		183
4 Words to Know		183
5 Making Predictions		184
6 Idioms and Expressions		184
7 Literary Term: Irony		184
B THE STORY		185

C UNDERSTANDING THE STORY	188
1 Reading Comprehension	188
2 Guessing Meaning from Context	188
3 Word Forms	190
4 Grammar: Uses of the Verb <i>Do</i>	190
D THINKING CRITICALLY	192
1 Discussing the Story	192
2 Making Inferences	192
3 Analyzing the Story: Irony	193
4 Writing	193
SUMMING UP	194
A TAKE A CLOSER LOOK	194
1 Theme Comparison: Marriage	194
2 Freewriting	194
B REVIEW	194
1 Idioms and Expressions Review	194
2 Form Review	195
 WebQuest	195
APPENDIX	197
ELEMENTS OF A SHORT STORY	197
FINAL REVIEW EXERCISES	199
LITERARY TERMS	204
IRREGULAR VERBS	206
SPELLING	208
Acknowledgments	214
Index	215

Childhood Memories

OUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES affect us throughout our lives. Sometimes we have happy memories that simply make us smile in later years: warm times with parents and relatives or happy experiences with friends. Other memories, however, may be negative: loneliness, illness, death, abuse, or separation from loved ones.

The stories in Part One explore traumatic events in the lives of three young children. As you read, consider how each child copes with the situation. You may recall similar experiences from your own childhood.



CHAPTER 1

Eleven

SANDRA CISNEROS



CHAPTER 2

The Blanket

FLOYD DELL



CHAPTER 3

The Bracelet

YOSHIKO UCHIDA



Eleven

SANDRA CISNEROS

A PREPARING TO READ

1 Think Before You Read

Answer the following questions:

- 1 Have you ever been disappointed by your birthday? How did you feel about your birthday when you were a child? Did your birthday make you feel older?
- 2 Do you remember being embarrassed by a teacher when you were a child? What happened?
- 3 What are some things a child might do in a situation where an adult, who has more power, is being unfair to him or her?

2 Picture Focus

With a partner, talk about the picture. What do you think is happening?

3 Story Preview

Read the preview of the story and, with a partner, try to guess the meaning of the words in **bold print**.

Today is Rachel's eleventh birthday. As Rachel knows, when you're eleven, you're not just eleven. For example, sometimes you can feel like a dumb ten-year-old or like a **scared** five-year-old. Mrs. Price, Rachel's teacher, has found an ugly, old red sweater. Mrs. Price says that the sweater belongs to Rachel. When Rachel tries to tell Mrs. Price that the sweater isn't hers, Mrs. Price says this is **nonsense** and puts the sweater on Rachel's desk. Rachel can't do anything, and she feels very unhappy, even though it's her birthday. Rachel can't even **pretend** that she's not unhappy. She wishes that she could be **invisible** or far away.

4 Words to Know

Fill in the blanks below with the **bold** words from the Story Preview above. Then, with a partner, compare your answers.

Children love to make up stories and _____ *pretend* _____ they are other people or animals. Some children even have a(n) _____ friend. The fact that no one else can see this friend doesn't make the friend seem less real to the child.

Sometimes, bad dreams can make children feel _____. When children tell adults they are afraid, the adults should take what the children say seriously; they should never treat it as _____.

5 Making Predictions

From the Story Preview, try to predict what will happen. Which of the following predictions do you think is the most *probable*? Circle your choice or give an answer that you think is better.

- 1 Rachel will be able to explain everything to Mrs. Price.
- 2 Mrs. Price will listen to Rachel.
- 3 Rachel will become more unhappy and cry.
- 4 Rachel will keep the sweater.
- 5 Rachel will have a good birthday.
- 6 _____

Journal Writing Write your predictions in your journal. Explain the reasons for your predictions.

6 Idioms and Expressions

You will find these idioms and expressions in the story:

<p>kind of partly, in a way</p> <p>that's enough stop it</p> <p>getting mad becoming angry</p>	<p>hold in control or not show (feelings)</p> <p>right away immediately</p> <p>it's too late because of what has or hasn't happened, the situation can't be OK now</p>
---	---

7 Literary Term: First Person Narrator

"Eleven" has a **first person narrator**. This means that the story is told in the first person by the main character, Rachel, rather than in the third person, as many stories are. The first person narrator refers to him- or herself as "I." Because Rachel tells the story, we see what happens through her eyes. We get a clear sense, not just of what Rachel says and does, but also of how Rachel thinks, how she feels, and what she wishes for. We get to know Rachel.

Focus As you read "Eleven," ask yourself what you know about Rachel.

THE STORY

About the Author

Sandra Cisneros (born 1954), the only daughter in a family of seven children, was born in Chicago. Her Mexican-American heritage, of which she is proud, is evident in many of her short stories. Cisneros has had a successful and varied career. In addition to being a poet and fiction writer, she has worked as an arts administrator and has taught students who have dropped out of high school. She has written four books of poetry and two books of short stories; *The House on Mango Street* and *Woman Hollering Creek*. In many of her short stories, such as “Eleven,” Cisneros creates a view of the world through the eyes of a child. The language of these stories is simple and direct, but their ideas are serious and important.

Eleven

What they don't understand about birthdays and what they never tell you is that when you're eleven, you're also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one. And when you wake up on your eleventh birthday you expect to feel eleven, but you don't. You open your eyes and everything's just like yesterday, only it's today. And you don't feel eleven at all. You feel like you're still ten. And you are – underneath the year that makes you eleven.

Like some days you might say something stupid, and that's the part of you that's still ten. Or maybe some days you might need to sit on your mama's lap because you're scared, and that's the part of you that's five. And maybe one day when you're all grown up maybe you will need to cry like if you're three, and that's okay. That's what I tell Mama when she's sad and needs to cry. Maybe she's feeling three.

Because the way you grow old is kind of like an onion or like the rings inside a tree trunk or like my little wooden dolls that fit one inside the other, each year inside the next one. That's how being eleven years old is.

You don't feel eleven. Not right away. It takes a few days, weeks even,

sometimes even months before you say Eleven when they ask you. And you don't feel smart eleven, not until you're almost twelve. That's the way it is.

Only today I wish I didn't have only eleven years rattling inside me like pennies in a tin Band-Aid box. Today I wish I was one hundred and two instead of eleven because if I was one hundred and two I'd have known what to say when Mrs. Price put the red sweater on my desk. I would've known how to tell her it wasn't mine instead of just sitting there with that look on my face and nothing coming out of my mouth.

"Whose is this?" Mrs. Price says, and she holds the red sweater up in the air for all the class to see. "Whose? It's been sitting in the coatroom for a month."

"Not mine," says everybody. "Not me."

"Of course it's yours,"
Mrs. Price says.

"It has to belong to somebody," Mrs. Price keeps saying, but nobody can remember. It's an ugly sweater with red plastic buttons and a collar

and sleeves all stretched out like you could use it for a jump rope. It's maybe a thousand years old and even if it belonged to me I wouldn't say so.

Maybe because I'm skinny, maybe because she doesn't like me, that stupid Sylvia Saldívar says, "I think it belongs to Rachel." An ugly sweater like that, all raggedy and old, but Mrs. Price believes her. Mrs. Price takes the sweater and puts it right on my desk, but when I open my mouth nothing comes out.

"That's not, I don't, you're not . . . Not mine," I finally say in a little voice that was maybe me when I was four.

"Of course it's yours," Mrs. Price says. "I remember you wearing it once." Because she's older and the teacher, she's right and I'm not.

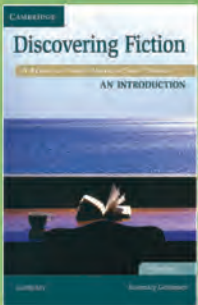
Not mine, not mine, not mine, but Mrs. Price is already turning to page thirty-two, and math problem number four. I don't know why but all of a sudden I'm feeling sick inside, like the part of me that's three wants to come out of my eyes, only I squeeze them shut tight and bite down on my teeth real hard and try to remember today I am eleven, eleven. Mama is making a cake for me for tonight, and when Papa comes home everybody will sing Happy birthday, happy birthday to you.

But when the sick feeling goes away and I open my eyes, the red sweater's still sitting there like a big red mountain. I move the red sweater to the corner of my desk with my ruler. I move my pencil and books and eraser as far from it as possible. I even move my chair a little to the right.

Not mine, not mine, not mine.

In my head I'm thinking how long till lunchtime, how long till I can take the red sweater and throw it over the schoolyard fence, or leave it

Equip students to read and understand authentic short stories with vocabulary, reading, and critical thinking skills.



FEATURES:

- Classic and contemporary stories give students a thorough background in North American literature.
- Every chapter gives students practice in guessing meaning from context, which research shows is one of the most important skills for reading unadapted texts.
- Students also learn to think critically, make inferences, discuss what they read, and write responses to the work.

SELECTED AUTHORS:

Kate Chopin, Sandra Cisneros, O. Henry, William Saroyan, James Thurber, Yoshiko Uchida, and more

	Introduction	1	2
Student's Book	978-1-107-63802-0	978-1-107-65222-4	978-1-107-62214-2
Online Instructor's Manual	www.cambridge.org/discoveringfiction		

Cambridge
Dictionaries Online
dictionary.cambridge.org

Look it up!

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-65222-4



9 781107 652224 >