

Prose Prompts: Grouping for Planning Instruction (1971-2026)

Old Nonfiction (Pre 20th C.)

1978 Johnson, "Review of 'A Free Enquiry Into The Nature and Origin of Evil'"
1980 James (written Odger's funeral) [not given]
1983 Carlyle's "Work"
1991 Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*
2000 Addison, *The Spectator* (March 4, 1712)

Modern Nonfiction

1971 Orwell, "Some Thoughts on the Common Toad"
1979 Bell, biography of Woolf family
1981 Shaw, letter about mother's cremation
1982 Stevenson, "Cat Bill"
1984 Mailer, "Death of Benny Paret"
1990 Didion, "Self Deception – Self Respect"
1993 Strachey, "Florence Nightingale"

Old Fiction (Pre 20th C.)

1970 Meredith, "Ferdinand and Miranda"
1973 Dickens, *Hard Times*
1974 James, *What Maisie Knew*
1984 Austen *Emma*
1986 Dickens, *Dombey and Son*
1987 Eliot, "Leisure"
1994 Jewett, "A White Heron"
1996 Hawthorne, "Judge Pyncheon"
1998 Eliot, *Middlemarch*
2001 Fielding, *Tom Jones*
2004 James, "The Pupil"
2004B Gaskell, *Mary Barton*
2005B Norris, *McTeague*
2006B Collins, *The Moonstone* [not given]
2008B Austen, *Northanger Abbey*
2010 Edgeworth, *Belinda*
2011 Eliot, *Middlemarch*
2016 Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*
2017 Smollett, *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*
2018 Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance*
2019 Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*

Double

1980 James and Ellison (funerals) [not given]
1985 Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms* (2 drafts)

Drama

2006 Wilde *Lady Windermere's Fan*

Character

1970 Meredith, "Ferdinand and Miranda" [how naturally suited for one another]
1972 Joyce "Eveline" [prepares reader for Eveline's decision]
1984 Austen *Emma* [characterizes Emma more than Harriet]
1989 Conrad, "Captain McWhirr" [techniques to define MacWhirr's character]

Richards

Modern Fiction

1972 Joyce "Eveline"
1975 Lagerkvist *The Marriage Feast*
1980 Ellison, *Invisible Man* (paired with James)
1985 Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms*
1988 Updike, "Reunion"
1989 Conrad, "Captain McWhirr"
1992 Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing"
1995 Cisneros, "Eleven"
1997 Kogawa, *Obasan*
1999 McCarthy, *The Crossing*
2002 de Botton, *Kiss and Tell*
2002B Proulx, *The Shipping News*
2003 Gallant, "The Other Paris"
2003B Oates, *We are The Mulvaney's*
2005 Brush, "The Birthday Party"
2007 Trumbo *Johnny Got His Gun*
2007B Deane, "Reading in the Dark"
2008 Desai, *Fasting, Feasting*
2009 Petry, *The Street*
2009B Hurston, *Seraph on the Suwanee*
2010B Clair, "Cherry Bomb"
2011B Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*
2012 Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*
2013 Lawrence, *The Rainbow*
2013B Dabydeen, "Mammacita's Garden Cove"
2014 Jones, *The Known World*
2015 Erdrich, *The Beet Queen*
2015B Lively, *Moon Tiger*
2016B Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss*
2021 Winton, *Breath*
2022 Hogan, *People of the Whale*
2023-1 Shawi, *Everfair*
2023-2 Peynado, "The Rock Eaters"
2024-1 Gallant, "One Morning in June"
2024-2 Urquhart, *The Night Stages*
2025-1 Cusk, *The Bradshaw Variations*
2025-2 Haien, *The All of It*
2026 Bender, *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

Unknown

1976 Probably from an epic poem by John Gardener

1992 Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing" [characterize the mother and her attitude]
 1995 Cisneros, "Eleven" [characterize Rachel]
 1996 Hawthorne, "Judge Pyncheon" [characterize Judge Pyncheon]
 1999 McCarthy, *The Crossing* [impact of the experience on the main character]
 2000 Addison, *The Spectator* (March 4, 1712) [diarist, society and satiric purpose]
 2001 Fielding, *Tom Jones* [characterize Mr. Allworthy and Mrs. Wilkins]
 2002B Proulx, *The Shipping News* [vivid impression of Quoyle]
 2003B Oates, *We are The Mulvaney* [characterize the speaker, Judd Mulvaney]
 2004 James, "The Pupil" [depiction of the three characters and their relationships]
 2005B Norris, *McTeague* [how characterization reflects narrator's attitude]
 2006 Wilde *Lady Windermere's Fan* [values of the characters and their society]
 2007 Trumbo *Johnny Got His Gun* [characterize the relationship between the young man and his father]
 2007B Deane, "Reading in the Dark" [how he conveys the impact of those experiences on him]
 2008B Austen, *Northanger Abbey* [characterize Catherine Marland]
 2009B Hurston, *Seraph on the Suwanee* [describe Sawley and to characterize the people who live there]
 2010 Edgeworth, *Belinda* [characterize the adult narrator's memories of her fifth-grade summer world]
 2012 Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus* [analyze the development of Estrella's character]
 2013 Lawrence, *The Rainbow* [characterize the woman and capture her situation]
 2014 Jones, *The Known World* [reveals the character of Moses]
 2015B Lively, *Moon Tiger* [the complex relationship between characters]
 2016 Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* [the complex relationship between the two characters]
 2019 Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham* [the complex experience of two sisters]
 2021 Winton, *Breath* [response of the narrator to the incident at the riverbank]
 2025-1 Cusk, *The Bradshaw Variations* [complex portrayal of title character]
 2025-2 Haien, *The All of It* [complex portrayal of Father Declan]

Attitude

1971 Orwell, "Some Thoughts on the Common Toad" [toward the coming of spring]
 1973 Dickens, *Hard Times* [shape the reader's attitude toward place]
 1978 Johnson, "Review of 'A Free Enquiry Into The Nature and Origin of Evil'" [toward Jenyns and his argument]
 1979 Bell, biography of Woolf family [feelings about the Woolf family]
 1980 2 funerals (James, Ellison) [compare authors' attitudes and their effect on the reader]
 1981 Shaw, letter about mother's cremation [toward his mother and her cremation]
 1986 Dickens, *Dombey and Son* [toward characters]
 1989 Conrad, "Captain McWhirr" [toward Captain McWhirr]
 1990 Didion, "Self Deception – Self Respect"
 1993 Strachey, "Florence Nightingale" [Strachey's view and how he conveys it]
 1997 Kogawa, *Obasan* [toward her past]
 1998 Eliot, *Middlemarch* [toward Dorothea Brooke]
 2005B Norris, *McTeague* [how characterization reflects narrator's attitude]
 2006B Collins, *The Moonstone* (not given) [toward the people he describes]
 2013B Dabydeen, "Mammacita's Garden Cove" [Max's attitude toward place]
 2017 Smollett, *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle* [complex interplay between emotions and social norms]
 2018 Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance* [narrator's attitude toward a character]

Meaning

1975 Lagerkvist *The Marriage Feast* [define and discuss subject of the story + significance]
 1976 Probably from an epic poem by John Gardener [world, way of life, effect]
 1985 Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms* [effect of revisions]
 1988 Updike, "Reunion" [analyze the blend of humor, pathos, and grotesque]
 2002 de Botton, *Kiss and Tell* [produces a comic effect]
 2003 Gallant, "The Other Paris" [social commentary]

Richards

2004B Gaskell, *Mary Barton* [social commentary]

2005 Brush, "The Birthday Party" [purpose]

Setting

1973 Dickens, *Hard Times* [attitudes toward place he describes]

2009 Petry, *The Street* [relationship to the urban setting]

2015 Erdrich, *The Beet Queen* [impact of the environment on the two children]

2016B Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss* [establishes mood and setting]

2022 Hogan, *People of the Whale* [two events characterizing community]

Argument

1982 Stevenson, "Cat Bill" [argument effective for his audience]

1983 Carlyle's "Work" [convince the reader of the rightness of his position]

Dramatizes

1994 Jewett, "A White Heron" [the young heroine's adventure]

2011B Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen* [Okimasis' experience]

Write a description or narrative piece 1974

No Devices Listed

1970, 1971, 1972 (devices + other aspects of the author's craft), 1975, 1976 (elements), 1978 (treatment), 1982 (strategies), 1983 (language), 1984, 1987 (stylistic devices), 1989 (techniques), 1991, 1992 (narrative techniques and other resources of language), 1993, 1995 (literary techniques), 1998 (literary techniques), 1999 (author's techniques), 2001 (techniques), 2002, 2003B, 2005 (literary devices), 2006, 2007B, 2008B (literary techniques), 2009B (literary techniques), 2010B (literary techniques), 2011B (literary devices), 2013 (literary devices), 2013B (literary techniques), 2015B (literary devices), 2018 (literary techniques, 2025-1 & 2025-2 (literary elements & techniques), 2026 (literary devices & techniques).

Characterization

1972, 2003, 2004B, 2022 (of community)

Detail

1980, 1981, 1986, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2004B, 2005B, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2016B, 2019

Dialogue

2004B, 2017

Diction/Word Choice

1973 (+ phrasing), 1980, 1981, 1984, 1986, 1994, 2005B, 2016

Figurative Language

1997, 2009, 2012, 2016B

Grotesque

1988

Humor

1988

Image/Imagery

1972, 1973, 1984, 1986, 1994, 2009, 2014, 2015

Language

2001

Narrative voice/narrative perspective

2003, 2011

Pathos

1988

Personification

2009

Point of View

1994, 1996, 1997, 2004, 2004B, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2015

Repetition

2000

Sentence Structure/Syntax

1973, 1984, 1996, 2005B, 2007

Setting

1972

Structure

1986 (narrative structure), 1994 (narrative pace), 1997, 2017

Style

1979, 1990, 2006B, 2019

Symbol

1972

Theme

1972

Tone

1990, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2005B, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019