

# **THE WRITING OF THE SHORT STORY**

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The Writing of the Short Story by Lewis Worthington Smith

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**LEWIS WORTHINGTON SMITH**

**THE WRITING OF  
THE SHORT STORY**



THE WRITING OF THE  
SHORT STORY

BY

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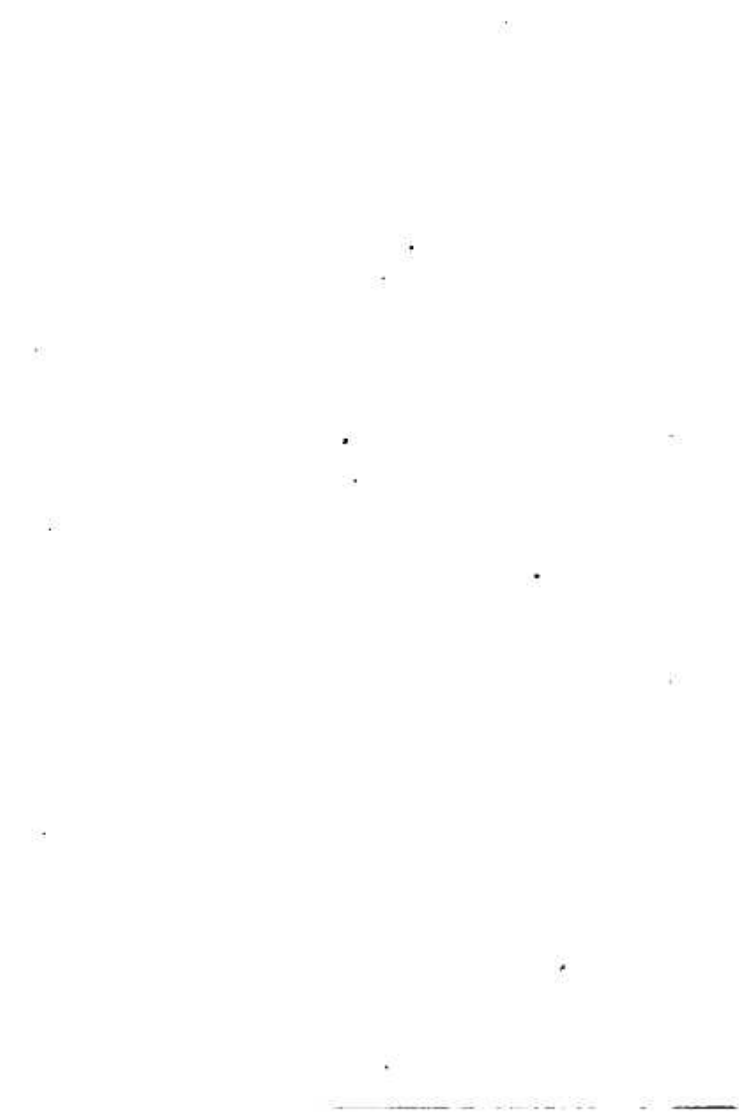
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IT IS A PLEASURE  
TO BE PERMITTED TO ASSOCIATE  
WITH THIS LITTLE BOOK  
THE NAME OF MY FRIEND  
PROFESSOR L. A. SHERMAN  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994





## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

In the author's classes the three stories in the volume entitled "Three Hundred Dollars" are first studied because of their simplicity, and these are followed by parts of "The Bonnie Brier Bush," and then by the stories from Bret Harte. Mrs. Phelps Ward's "Loveliness" is especially valuable for illustrating methods and devices for making a simple theme dramatically interesting. Students are required to mark stories with the symbols and discuss them with reference to the principles of which this little book is an exposition, but no recitation on the book itself is required. Perhaps one-third of the time in the class-room is spent in discussion of the short themes written by the class, and when convenient these are placed on the board before the class for that purpose. In the theme work following the suggested subjects the effort is made to confine instruction and practice to one thing at a time, but at the conclusion of the work of the term each member of the class is required to hand in a complete original story.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and financial management.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used for data collection and analysis. It highlights the need for standardized procedures to ensure the reliability and validity of the information gathered. This includes the use of surveys, interviews, and statistical software.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation and presentation of the data. It stresses the importance of clear and concise communication, using appropriate visual aids such as charts and graphs to facilitate understanding. The goal is to provide actionable insights that can inform decision-making and policy development.

4. The final part of the document discusses the ethical considerations and challenges associated with data analysis. It notes that researchers must adhere to strict ethical guidelines to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the data subjects. Additionally, it addresses the potential for bias and the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the research process.

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## NARRATIVE FORMS

**I. Elements of the Story.**— This little volume is meant to be a discussion of but one of the various forms that literature takes, and it will be first in order to see what are the elements that go to the making of a narrative having literary quality. A story may be true or false, but we shall here be concerned primarily with fiction, and with fiction of no great length. In writing of this sort the first essential is that something shall happen; a story without a succession of incidents of some kind is inconceivable. We may then settle upon *incident* as a first element. As a mere matter of possibility a story may be written without any interest other than that of incident, but a story dealing with men will not have much interest for thoughtful readers unless it also includes some showing of *character*. Further, as the lives of all men and women are more or less conditioned by their *surroundings* and *circumstance*, any story will require more or less *description*. Incidents are of but little moment, character showing may have but slight interest, description is purposeless, unless the happenings of the story develop in the characters *feelings* toward which we assume some attitude of sympathy or opposition. Including this fourth element of the story, we shall then have