

Appendix 1

SYNOPSIS

“Hands”

“Hands” is the story of a fat, old, little man named Wing Biddlebaum who lives mainly in isolation from the town life of Winesburg, Ohio. Wing previously lives in Pennsylvania as a schoolteacher named Adolf Myers. He has a dream for the better future and with his hands and voice tries to convey that dream into the heart **of the** young boys. He caresses their shoulders **and** tousles their hair. But one of his pupils, having conceived a strong affection for his teacher, accuses him of doing something inappropriate.

He, though innocent, is driven out of town. He gathers a new last name from a **box** of goods and lives in Winesburg with an aunt until she died. In Winesburg, he becomes the very best berry picker in the region. He remains a mystery to the majority of the town after moving there twenty years. He speaks mainly **with** his hands, which flap when he is excited. Normally, Wing attempts to keep his hands hidden. He speaks closely only with George Willard, the boy reporter **of** the Winesburg Eagle.

“Mother”

This is a story about Elizabeth Willard, the mother **of** George Willard. Elizabeth **is** married to Tom Willard, the proprietors of the New Willard House hotel. **As** a **girl**, Elizabeth is attractive and passionate. She wants to travel around the world. Elizabeth likes to spend her time and has affairs with travelling men. However, disappointment has killed the fire inside of her causing her to look older

than forty-five. She marries Tom for she hopes that it can change her life, makes her dream come true. Before long she realizes that she is caught **in** the dull life of Winesburg, her dream **turns** to drab realities by her life with Tom Willard. She is unhappy with the marriage.

An unexpressed, deep bond exists between Elizabeth and her son, although she remains quiet timid around her son. They usually sit in silence. Through her son George, Elizabeth Willard hopes to express herself, for she sees in him the fulfillment of her own desires. **When** she learns that George wants to be a Writer, she is glad but cannot express her feeling even to him.

“Surrender”

This is a story about Louise Bentley, who was born into a house where she was immediately unwanted by her father. She wants love but does not get it and it makes her unhappy and moody. At fifteen, she is sent to live with Albert Hardy and his family in Winesburg. In school, Louise is a good student, praised by her teachers so that she is resented by the two Hardy girls who believe that Louise is always showing off. They stop speaking with her. As their company is completely absent, Louise begins to look at John Hardy.

One day, she sends young John Hardy a note, and a few weeks later she gives herself to him. When it becomes clear that she is pregnant, Louise and John get married. Her pregnancy is an alarm to Louise. She refuses to nurse her son David. At last she and John separated, and shortly afterward John takes young David to live with him on the farm.

“Adventure”

Alice Hindman lives in Winesburg all of her life. She has a boyfriend, named Ned Currie, who works at the Winesburg Eagle. When **Ned** plans to move to Cleveland, Alice suggests that she would go **as** well. She hopes they both could live together and work. The night before Ned leaves, the couple became lovers. Upon leaving her, Ned tells Alice that they would have to stick together. For a while, **Ned** writes letters to Alice but after he moves to Chicago, he forgets about Alice. Alice, however, can not forget him. His last words echo in her mind brings sorrow to her.

Alice joins many activities to overcome her loneliness. Her mother remarries and Alice lives alone. One night, she arrives home and feels the house empty. She stands by the window naked, then runs outside and cries out to an old man walking past. He is partially deaf. In her embarrassment, she falls to the ground and crawls back to her room and weeps.

“The Thinker”

Seth lives in a beautiful house which is now overshadowed by the large house built by Banker White. His father, Clarence Richmond is killed and Seth lives with Virginia, his mother. One evening, Seth goes to visit George **Willard**, his friend who is a writer. **As** Seth enters his room, George tells Seth that he wanted to write a love story. He would have to **fall** in love and he wants to love Helen White. Since Seth knows her best, George **asks** Seth to tell her about **it**. Seth is enraged and says goodbye.

However, Seth **is** determined to speak with her, **only** not about George. Seth goes to Helen's house and walked out together and tells her his plan to leave the town. On the way, Helen places her hand in Seth's. Seth feels happy and

pictures a spot where he would love to lie ~~with~~ her. Awkwardly, Seth suddenly says to her again about moving away and tells that they would not see each other again. Saddened, Helen leaves him. Seth nearly runs to catch Helen as she leaves but he just stands and watches her in confusion.

“The Teacher”

Kate Swift, once George Willard’s teacher, sees in him a future Writer. She tries to tell George about it and what writing is, what it means. George does not understand exactly, but he understands that Kate is speaking, not ~~as~~ his teacher, but as a woman. One night, in her house, Kate embraces him. George gets confused and Kate is embarrassed. She quickly reprimands him for being too young to understand.

The next night, Kate is lonely when she sees a light on in George’s office. The fire burning inside of her pours out into words and she speaks to George about life. The passion she feels become physical and Kate tries to leave. But looking at George, Kate falls against him. Just as Kate is on the point of yielding to him, she strikes him and ~~runs~~ away, leaving George confused.

“Loneliness”

Enoch Robinson lives with his mother, Mrs. AlRobinson. During his time as a boy at Winesburg High School, people know him clever and quiet. Wanting to be an artist, Enoch moves to New York and attends art school. Usually Enoch and his young artist friends gather in his room and talk passionately. But, one day, Enoch feels annoyed by his friends’ conversation and stops inviting them.

Then, he makes imaginary friends of his own who come to his room. When he gets lonely, he marries a girl, moves to Brooklyn and has two children.

After a while, Enoch gets bored. He then gives his family some money **and** divorces his wife. Enoch returns to his old apartment. Later, a woman comes and enters his apartment in New York and ruins his imaginary life. This incident transforms Enoch into the old, bumbling man later seen around Winesburg.

“Queer”

Elmer and his family live on the **farm** but then move to Winesburg to run a store. One day, Elmer gets angry to a salesman and then his anger turns to his father. He yells at his father and says that they have been fools. Elmer then runs out and wanders down to his old farm. At the farm, he sees the half-witted man, Mook, and calls him over. Mook listens patiently to Elmer’s ranting about the queerness of the Cowleys. By the end of his rant, Elmer declares that he would stand up to someone like George Willard.

That evening, Elmer goes to the Eagle office and asks George to see him. George follows, but Elmer could not say any words. Elmer wanders the streets, dismayed by his failure to stand up to George when somehow he gets a new idea. He would leave town on the midnight train to Cleveland. He decides to find George before his leaving to explain about it. When George arrives, Elmer tries to explain but only his some senseless expression falls from his lips. He suddenly hits George over until George falls to the ground. Then, he jumps into the train and leaves Winesburg.

Appendix 2

BIOGRAPHY

To the generation who flourished in the 1920s, Sherwood Anderson was a force and pioneer, and he exercised an indirect influence on the literature for two decades. Sherwood Anderson was born on September **13,1876**, the third child of Irwin and Emma Anderson. He **was** raised in Clyde, Ohio and grew **up** in a relatively poor family. The poverty of his family was perhaps the chief reason why he quit school at the age of fourteen and got a job. What he learned working on farms, in shops, and especially in livery and racing stables later appeared in short stories that dealt generally **with** the emotional problems of boyhood. After army service in Cuba during the Spanish American war, he was graduated from Wittenberg Academy in Springfield, Ohio, in 1900. Then he worked **as** an advertising writer in Chicago and became president of his own paint factory in Elyria, Ohio. But increasingly dissatisfied **with** business, he began to **think** seriously of writing for a living. Realizing that his true vocation lay in literature, he broke off his business connections and also his first marriage. He returned to Chicago, where he continued to write advertising but now also worked in his own fiction. He was four times married and threetimes divorced. On a trip to South America he died of peritonitis in Panama.

Inspired by the example of other writers like Carl Sandburg, Edgar Lee Masters, Anderson had been publishing short prose sketches of people in a **small** town which were collected in Winesburn, Ohio (1919). This work, which was written in **1915** and **1916**, served for a generation **as** the definitive report on the

vanishing American small town. The book comes directly out of the life of Anderson's boyhood in Clyde. Winesburg is Anderson's testament of youth, his ambivalent memorial to the Midwestern village from which he had only partially escaped. As a young factory-hand in a Chicago boarding-house he tried to imagine the inner lives of the people around **him**. He was preoccupied by a desire to describe the agonies and the failures of the unsuccessful, the deprived, and the inarticulate. He looks for the vital moments in their drab lives, their sudden impulses toward love or other forms of escape from the environmental husks that enclose them. **In** his stories **of** rural and **small** town life, Sherwood Anderson sought to portray what he called "the ugliness of life, the strange beauty of life...." His sketches and tales drew upon **his** own experiences in the American Midwest at the end of nineteenth century.

Anderson's real talent lay in a brief depictions of people in what he saw as their natural state: isolated from each other and usually unable even to articulate this isolation. His fourth book won international attention with its intense psychological studies of trapped and warped personalities and its pity and tenderness. Winesburg represents his nearest approach to the kind of **book** his conception of literature demanded. In Anderson's rendering, the peaceable kingdom of small town myth gives way to a grimmer drama; the town is revealed as the locale in which parallel but unshared individual tragedies are enacted.

References:

1. Conn, P. (1989). Literature in America. Cambridge University Press.
2. Miller, P. (1966). Major Writers of America. Brace and World, Inc.