

Sherwood Anderson's *Death in the Woods*

Day 5 (*Time required: 45-55 mins.*)

Listening to “Death in the Woods”

Students will observe and listen to a reading of Anderson's story. The goal of this activity is to help students experience the narrator's voice.

If you prefer to read the story yourself, prepare by reading the story aloud a few times beforehand. This familiarity with the story will enable you to give a confident reading and speak in the narrator's voice more consistently. It will also give you an accurate estimate of the time needed to read the story to the class.

Advice for Teachers Who Plan to Read the Story Themselves:

- Plan to finish the reading in a single session. Tell students that this will take about 30 minutes.
- Do not distribute copies of the story to students prior to the reading.
- Resist letting students take turns reading the passages from the story. One reader for the entire story will maintain consistency.
- The story is divided into five sections. In order to help students pace themselves as they listen, tell them that there will be five sections and that you will say the number of each one as you encounter it.

Advice to Teachers Who Plan to Show the DVD Version of the Story:

- Tell students that the reading will last about thirty minutes.
- Do not turn the lights off while you show the reading.
- Ask students to record observations about the story in their notebooks as they watch.

You might want to focus their observations around this question:
“What surprises you about the story?”