

Sherwood Anderson's *Death in the Woods*

Day 1 (*Time required: 45-55 mins.*)

Storytelling

Ask students to think about stories they know from their own or their family's experience. Some examples might be how their grandparents met or things their parents did when they were teenagers. Allow students to spend a few minutes reflecting on the story they would most like to tell.

Ask two or three students to share their stories with the class. Ask them to stand in the front of the room so that everyone can hear the story clearly. Or, in groups of three or four students, ask each member of the group to tell his or her story to the others.

A Different Point of View

Ask one of the students who told a story in the Storytelling activity to go to the board and make a list of all the people in his or her story. Ask the class to choose one of the people from the list.

Ask the student at the board to talk about the ways in which the story would be different if that person told it instead and then to state possible reasons for these differences. (Possible answer: A student's younger sibling may not be able to remember all of the details of the story.)

Pre-Assessment: Voice

This quick activity will enable you to assess students' readiness for upcoming instruction. Make sure that students turn in their work when they are finished.

On a separate piece of paper, ask students to draw a vertical line and a horizontal line that intersect. In the upper left quadrant (#1), ask them to write the word "voice." Then ask them to write "definition" in the quadrant below (#2), but remind them that we are not talking about the voice that comes out of our throats, but rather the writer's or character's voice. Next, in the upper right quadrant (#3), ask them to write "examples." Finally, in the quadrant below (#4), ask them to write "anti-examples"—things that are not examples of voice. Now ask students to complete the three quadrants they have labeled.

Homework

Tell students they do not have to write their stories yet, but they do have to act as storytellers and make two lists for homework. Have each student

- Tell his or her own story to a friend or family member
- Make a list of the people in this story
- Make a separate list of the people who are not in the story but who know the story, perhaps because they have heard it told many times