

Why Read Literature?

The works in this unit will make you laugh, and they might touch you as well. In addition to seeing the humor in each situation, you might have other purposes for reading. Preview three of the purposes you might set before reading the works in this unit.

1

Read for information.

If you think you aren't getting enough exercise, consider how much walking you do every day. You might be getting more exercise than you think. Read the government publication on the health benefits of walking, page 374, to learn about the exercise you can do anytime, any place.

In 1991, hikers in Europe found the body of a 5,300-year-old man. Preserved by the snow, this man has taught archaeologists a great deal about the time in which he lived. Find out more when you read "**The Iceman**" on page 393.

2

Read to be entertained.

Some cultures have thought cats were sacred. Others thought they were evil. Whatever the role, people have always been fascinated by cats. Today, you can even find cats who have Web sites. Read about a brave and social cat in James Herriot's "**Cat on the Go**" on page 342.

Charles Osgood, author of "**Our Finest Hour**," has written for and appeared on television and radio, has played with well-known orchestras, has received many honorary degrees, and was once named Father of the Year! Read his hilarious account of a newscast that wasn't ready for prime time on page 334.

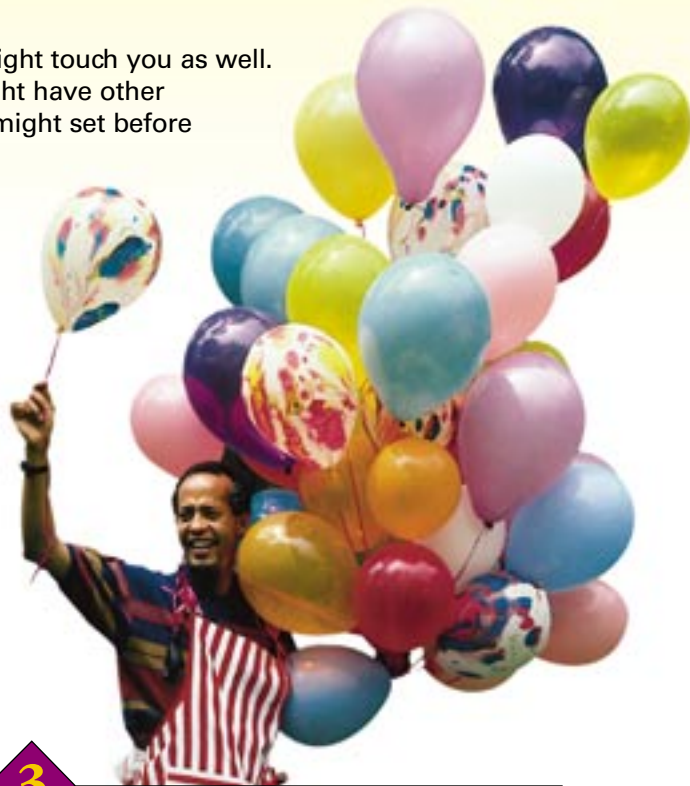


3

Read for the love of literature.

If you wrote a poem a day from age eight to age twenty-one, you would not have written as many poems as E. E. Cummings did! He wrote more than 5,000 poems in his lifetime. Read his poem about a balloon man who announces the arrival of Spring, "**in Just-**," page 363.

Lewis Carroll, the eldest son in a family with eleven children, used to entertain his siblings with puppets on strings, called marionettes, that he made himself. Enjoy Carroll's wit and language in his poem "**Father William**" on page 368.



Take It to the Net

Visit the Web site for online instruction and activities related to each selection in this unit.

www.phschool.com

How to Read Literature

Use Strategies for Reading Critically

Some people think that being critical is the same as being negative. However, being a critical reader does not mean that you necessarily respond negatively to what you read. It means that you take the time to analyze carefully what you read and to consider how effectively an author has put together a piece of writing. In this unit, you will learn strategies for evaluating what you read.

1. Recognize author's purpose.

An author's purpose will influence the type and amount of information provided in a work. Consider the following purposes a writer might be trying to achieve:

- to entertain
- to persuade
- to inform
- to reflect on experiences

Knowing the author's purpose will help you make judgments about his or her reliability and objectivity. In this unit, you will learn strategies for using the author's word choices and the details he or she includes as clues to his or her purpose.

2. Evaluate author's message.

When you evaluate an author's message, you make a judgment about how effectively the writer has proved his or her point. To evaluate the author's message, ask yourself questions like the ones shown on the notepad.

3. Interpret idioms.

Idioms are expressions that have a meaning in a particular language or region. By recognizing and interpreting idioms, you improve your understanding of a work's perspective.

In this unit, you will learn how to get at the meaning of expressions and to appreciate the regional or cultural "seasoning" they give to a work.

4. Identify cause and effect.

Think about how one event causes another. Notice how the cause—an action, feeling, or situation—brings about a result—the effect. Learn to recognize cause-and-effect relationships to

- understand the connections between events.
- judge whether evidence supports a connection between events.

As you read the selections in this unit, review the reading strategies and look at the notes in the side columns. Use the suggestions to apply the strategies and read critically.

