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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

The Grammar Dog Guide to Short Stories by Stephen Crane

The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky

The Open Boat

The Veteran

Maggie: A Girl of the Streets

The Blue Hotel

**All exercises use sentences from the stories.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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SHORT STORIES by Stephen Crane – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the stories.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - SHORT STORIES by Stephen Crane

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object

i.o. = indirect object

p.n. = predicate nominative

o.p. = object of preposition

p.a. = predicate adjective

THE BRIDE COMES TO YELLOW SKY

- ___1. Yellow Sky had a kind of brass band, which played painfully, to the delight of the populace.
- ___2. A sense of mutual guilt invaded their minds and developed a finer tenderness.
- ___3. Ultimately the man was attracted by the closed door of the Weary Gentleman saloon.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participial *ger* = gerund *inf* = infinitive *appos* = appositive *prep* = prepositional

THE BRIDE COMES TO YELLOW SKY

- ___1. To the left, miles down a long purple slope, was a little ribbon of mist where moved the keening Rio Grande.
- ___2. The name of Jack Potter, his ancient antagonist, entered his mind, and he concluded that it would be a glad thing if he should go to Potter's house, and by bombardment induce him to come out and fight.
- ___3. The dog screamed, and, wheeling in terror, galloped headlong in a new direction.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label underlined words:

p = personification *s* = simile *m* = metaphor *o* = onomatopoeia *h* = hyperbole

THE BRIDE COMES TO YELLOW SKY

- ___1. Presently they heard from a distance the sound of a shot, followed by three wild yowls.
- ___2. The man was playing with this town; it was a toy for him.
- ___3. He fumed at it as the winter wind attacks a prairie cabin in the North.

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EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. *mythology* b. *religion* c. *war/weapons/combat* d. *folklore/superstition*

THE BRIDE COMES TO YELLOW SKY

- ___1. . . . he would use all the devices of speed and plainscraft in making the journey from the station to his house. Once within that safe citadel, he could issue some sort of vocal bulletin . . .
- ___2. The drummer saw that the barkeeper, without sound, had taken a Winchester from beneath the bar.
- ___3. Immediately a chapel-like gloom was upon the place.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Ultimately the man was attracted by the closed door of the Weary Gentleman saloon. He went to it and, hammering with a revolver, demanded drink.

The door remaining imperturbable, he picked a bit of paper from the walk, and nailed it to the framework with a knife. He then turned his back contemptuously upon this popular resort and, walking to the opposite side of the street and spinning there on his heel quickly and lithely, fired at the bit of paper. He missed it by a half-inch. He swore at himself, and went away. Later he comfortably fusilladed the windows of his most intimate friend. The man was playing with this town; it was a toy for him.

But still there was no offer of fight. The name of Jack Potter, his ancient antagonist, entered his mind, and he concluded that it would be a glad thing if he should go to Potter's house, and by bombardment induce him to come out and fight. He moved in the direction of his desire, chanting Apache scalp-music.

(From *The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky*)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 Ultimately the man was attracted by the closed door of the Weary Gentleman saloon.
- 2 He went to it and, hammering with a revolver, demanding drink.
- 3 The door remaining imperturbable, he picked a bit of paper from the walk, and nailed it to the
- 4 framework with a knife. He then turned his back contemptuously upon this popular resort and,
- 5 walking to the opposite side of the street and spinning there on his heel quickly and lithely, fired
- 6 at the bit of paper. He missed it by a half-inch. He swore at himself, and went away. Later he

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7 comfortably fusilladed the windows of his most intimate friend. The man was playing with this
8 town; it was a toy for him.

9 But still there was no offer of fight. The name of Jack Potter, his ancient antagonist, entered his
10 mind, and he concluded that it would be a glad thing if he should go to Potter's house, and by
11 bombardment induce him to come out and fight. He moved in the direction of his desire,
12 chanting Apache scalp-music.

- ___ 1. The underlined words in Line 1 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 2. The underlined words in Line 2 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 3. ALL of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
a. *fired at the bit of paper* (Line 5)
b. *fusilladed the windows* (Line 7)
c. *playing with this town* (Line 7)
d. *by bombardment induce him* (Line 10-11)