



The Grammar Dog Guide to Short Stories by Kate Chopin

**At Cheniere Caminada
Athenaise
Desiree's Baby
The Story of an Hour
Wiser Than a God**

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

About Grammartdog

Grammartdog 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 Grammartdog.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.

Grammartdog'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.



Grammartdog.com LLC
P.O. Box 299
Christoval, Texas 76935
Phone: 325-896-2479
Fax: 325-896-2676
fifi@grammartdog.com

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - SHORT STORIES by Kate Chopin

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

WISER THAN A GOD

- ___ 1. "You have given me a joy that you don't dream of."
- ___ 2. Miss Brainard's rendition was a triumphant achievement of sound, and with the proud flush of success moving her to kind condescension, she asked Miss Von Stoltz to "please play something."
- ___ 3. Several months had passed since the dreadful night when death had deprived Paula for the second time of a loved parent.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

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

par = participial

ger = gerund

inf = infinitive

appos = appositive

prep = prepositional

WISER THAN A GOD

- ___ 1. The door bell now began to ring incessantly.
- ___ 2. In clinging to him against the buffets of the staggering wind she could feel the muscles of his arms, like steel.
- ___ 3. Her new-awakened admiration, though, was not deaf to a little inexplicable wish that he had not been so proficient with the banjo.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

h = hyperbole

WISER THAN A GOD

- ___ 1. Mrs. Von Stoltz leaned her head back amongst the cushions, and with eyes closed, drank in the wonderful strains that came like an ethereal voice out of the past, lulling her spirit into the quiet of sweet memories.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - SHORT STORIES by Kate Chopin

- ___2. Never had his audience beheld such proficiency as he displayed in the handling of his instrument, which was now behind him, now overhead, and again swinging in mid-air like the pendulum of a clock . . .
- ___3. Each inane compliment falling like a dash of cold water on Paula's ardor.

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
a. music b. religion c. mythology d. illness e. love/marriage

WISER THAN A GOD

- ___1. Before her stood the magnificent Steinway, on which her eyes rested with greedy admiration, and her fingers twitched with a desire to awaken its possibilities.
- ___2. Sounds so inspiring that a pretty black-eyed fairy, an acknowledged votary of Terpsichore . . .
- ___3. It must be admitted that this little episode, however graceful, was hardly a fitting prelude to the magnificent "Jewel Song from Faust" . . .

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Desiree's face became suffused with a glow that was happiness itself.

"Oh, Armand is the proudest father in the parish, I believe, chiefly because it is a boy, to bear his name; though he says not – that he would have loved a girl as well. But I know it isn't true. I know he says that to please me. And, mamma," she added, drawing Madame Valmonde's head down to her, and speaking in a whisper, "he hasn't punished one them – not one of them – since baby is born. Even Negrillon, who pretended to have burnt his leg that he might rest from work – he only laughed, and said Negrillon was a great scamp. Oh, mamma, I'm so happy; it frightens me."

What Desiree said was true. Marriage, and later the birth of his son, had softened Armand Aubigny's imperious and exacting nature greatly. This was what made the gentle Desiree so happy, for she loved him desperately. When he frowned she trembled, but loved him. When he smiled, she asked no greater blessing of God. But Armand's dark, handsome face had not often been disfigured by frowns since the day he fell in love with her.

When the baby was about three months old Desiree awoke one day to the conviction that there was something in the air menacing her peace. It was at first too subtle to grasp. It had only been a disquieting suggestion; an air of mystery among the blacks; unexpected visits from far-off neighbors who could hardly account for their coming. Then a strange, an awful change in her husband's manner, which she dared not ask him to explain. When he spoke to her, it was with averted eyes, from which the old love-light seemed to have gone out. He absented himself from home; and when there, avoided her presence and that of her child, without excuse. And the very spirit of Satan seemed suddenly to take hold of him in his dealing with the slaves. Desiree was miserable enough to die. (From *Desiree's Baby*)

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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 Desiree's face became suffused with a glow that was happiness itself.
2 "Oh, Armand is the proudest father in the parish, I believe, chiefly because it is a boy, to bear his name;
3 though he says not – that he would have loved a girl as well. But I know it isn't true. I know he says that
4 to please me. And, mamma," she added, drawing Madame Valmonde's head down to her, and speaking
5 in a whisper, "he hasn't punished one them – not one of them – since baby is born. Even Negrillon, who
6 pretended to have burnt his leg that he might rest from work – he only laughed, and said Negrillon was
7 a great scamp. Oh, mamma, I'm so happy; it frightens me."
8 What Desiree said was true. Marriage, and later the birth of his son, had softened Armand Aubigny's
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10 him desperately. When he frowned she trembled, but loved him. When he smiled, she asked no greater
11 blessing of God. But Armand's dark, handsome face had not often been disfigured by frowns since the
12 day he fell in love with her.
13 When the baby was about three months old Desiree awoke one day to the conviction that there was
14 something in the air menacing her peace. It was at first too subtle to grasp. It had only been a disquieting
15 suggestion; an air of mystery among the blacks; unexpected visits from far-off neighbors who could
16 hardly account for their coming. Then a strange, an awful change in her husband's manner, which she
17 dared not ask him to explain. When he spoke to her, it was with averted eyes, from which the old
18 love-light seemed to have gone out. He absented himself from home; and when there, avoided her
19 presence and that of her child, without excuse. And the very spirit of Satan seemed suddenly to take
20 hold of him in his dealing with the slaves. Desiree was miserable enough to die.

- ___ 1. The underlined words in Line 16 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___ 2. ALL of the following words are part of the pattern of repetition EXCEPT . . .
a. I know b. true c. slaves d. baby
- ___ 3. The words *When he* in Line 10 are an example of . . .
a. anaphora b. antiphrasis c. antimetabole d. anadiplosis

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