



**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Outcasts of
Poker Flat
by Bret Harte**

**All quizzes use sentences from the story.
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.



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

*Visit the website at www.gramwardog.com
for a current listing of titles. We appreciate teachers' comments and suggestions.*

ISBN 978-1-60857-007-2

Copyright © 2008 Gramwardog.com LLC

This publication may be reproduced for classroom use only. No part of this publication may be posted on a website or the internet. This publication is protected by copyright law and all use must conform to Sections 107 and 108 of the United States Copyright Act of 1976. No other use of this publication is permitted without prior written permission of Gramwardog.com LLC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 1	--	Parts of Speech <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 5
Exercise 2	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 7
Exercise 3	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 8
Exercise 4	--	Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 9
Exercise 5	--	Complements <i>20 multiple choice questions on direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions</i> 11
Exercise 6	--	Phrases <i>20 multiple choice questions on prepositional, appositive, gerund, infinitive, and participial phrases</i> 13
Exercise 7	--	Verbals <i>20 multiple choice questions on gerunds, infinitives, and participles</i> 15
Exercise 8	--	Clauses <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 9	--	Style: Figurative Language <i>20 multiple choice questions on metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole</i> 19
Exercise 10	--	Style: Poetic Devices <i>20 multiple choice questions on assonance, consonance, alliteration, repetition, and rhyme</i> 21
Exercise 11	--	Style: Sensory Imagery <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 23
Exercise 12	--	Style: Allusions and Symbols <i>20 multiple choice questions on symbols and allusions to literature, religion, card games/gambling, and chance/fate</i> 25
Exercise 13	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 1 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 27
Exercise 14	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 2 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 29
Exercise 15	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 3 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 31
Exercise 16	--	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 4 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 33
Answer Key	--	Answers to Exercises 1-16 35
Glossary	--	Grammar Terms 37
Glossary	--	Literary Terms 47

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT by Bret Harte

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 *p.a.* = predicate adjective
o.p. = object of preposition

- ___ 1. He returned to his pocket the handkerchief with which he had been whipping away the red dust of Poker Flat from his neat boots, and quietly discharged his mind of any further conjecture.
- ___ 2. The philosophic Oakhurst alone remained silent.
- ___ 3. But even this act did not draw the party into any closer sympathy.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

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

par = participle *ger* = gerund *inf* = infinitive *appos* = appositive *prep* = preposition

- ___ 1. Two or three men, conversing earnestly together, ceased as he approached, and exchanged significant glances.
- ___ 2. It had lately suffered the loss of several thousand dollars, two valuable horses, and a prominent citizen.
- ___ 3. A secret committee had determined to rid the town of all improper persons.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

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

- ___ 1. With him life was at best an uncertain game, and he recognized the usual percentage in favor of the dealer.
- ___ 2. As the shadows crept slowly up the mountain, a slight breeze rocked the tops of the pine trees, and moaned through their long and gloomy aisles.
- ___ 3. The third day came, and the sun, looking through the white-curtained valley, saw the outcasts divide their slowly decreasing store of provision for the morning meal.

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT by Bret Harte

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion used in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. literature b. religion c. card games/gambling d. chance/fate

- ____ 1. There was a Sabbath lull in the air, which in a settlement unused to Sabbath influences, looked ominous.
- ____ 2. In point of fact, Poker Flat was “after somebody.”
- ____ 3. He was too much of a gambler not to accept Fate.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

As the shadows crept slowly up the mountain, a slight breeze rocked the tops of the pine trees, and moaned through their long and gloomy aisles. The ruined cabin, patched and covered with pine boughs, was set apart for the ladies. As the lovers parted, they unaffectedly exchanged a kiss, so honest and sincere that it might have been heard above the swaying pines. The frail Duchess and the malevolent Mother Shipton were probably too stunned to remark upon this last evidence of simplicity, and so turned without a word to the hut. The fire was replenished, the men lay down before the door, and in a few minutes were asleep.

Mr. Oakhurst was a light sleeper. Toward morning he awoke benumbed and cold. As he stirred the dying fire, the wind, which was now blowing strongly, brought to his cheek that which caused the blood to leave, -- snow!

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 As the shadows crept slowly up the mountain, a slight breeze rocked the tops of the pine trees,
- 2 and moaned through their long and gloomy aisles. The ruined cabin, patched and covered with
- 3 pine boughs, was set apart for the ladies. As the lovers parted, they unaffectedly exchanged a kiss,
- 4 so honest and sincere that it might have been heard above the swaying pines. The frail Duchess
- 5 and the malevolent Mother Shipton were probably too stunned to remark upon this last evidence
- 6 of simplicity, and so turned without a word to the hut. The fire was replenished, the men lay
- 7 down before the door, and in a few minutes were asleep.
- 8 Mr. Oakhurst was a light sleeper. Toward morning he awoke benumbed and cold. As he stirred
- 9 the dying fire, the wind, which was now blowing strongly, brought to his cheek that which caused
- 10 the blood to leave, -- snow!

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT by Bret Harte

- ___1. The underlined words in Line 1 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___2. Lines 1 and 2 contain examples of . . .
a. hyperbole and personification
b. metaphor and onomatopoeia
c. personification and metaphor
d. metaphor and simile
- ___3. The underlined words in Line 7 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme

Visit grammar-dog.com to
Instantly Download
The Grammar-dog Guide to
**The Outcasts of
Poker Flat
by Bret Harte**