

A short story that I Have Read

Choosing a short story:

I read an interesting short story written by William Somerset Maugham named "The Luncheon".

Summary of the story:

The story is about a lady admirer of the speaker. The speaker is a young writer who received a letter from a lady who highly praised his writing. The speaker also replied thanking her. One day the speaker met the lady in a five star hotel. He was not too rich but he was flattered. He had 80 francs in his pocket. He thought that he could manage the lunch easily. He requested the lady to choose the food item from the menu book.

She assured that she does not eat much food. So, the speaker ordered salmon fish though that was expensive. Later the speaker asked if she liked anything. The lady replied that she liked caviar though it was horribly expensive. Then she enjoyed white champagne, asparagus coffee and finally the salmon. The speaker was sweating. He was too anxious if he could pay the bill or not. He did not take anything except a mutton chop. Finally he manages the lunch paying the total amount of whole month.

What I liked and did not like:

I like the way the speaker narrates the story. He uses metaphors in the story. As first person narrator the speaker easily depicts the inner feeling of the character.

The speaker also shows humors narrating the story. For example at the end of the story he mentions today she weights twenty-one stone

There are a number of climax in the story. I do not like the flat line of the climax graph. It is not too high. It could be more interesting.

My changes in the story:

If someone asked me to change the story then I would decrease the number of climax. I would increase the flat line of the climax graph in high. Finally I would make the story more interesting to the reader.

Concluding statement:

Although the story has some demerits but I enjoyed the story very much. It was an outstanding story that I read in my life.

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Story :-

The story is about a lady admirer of the speaker. The speaker is a young writer who received a letter from a lady who highly praised his writing. The speaker also replied thanking her. One day the speaker met the lady in a five star hotel. He was not too rich but he was flattered. He had 80 francs. He thought that he could manage the lunch easily. He requested

the lady to choose the food item from the menu book. She assumed that she does not eat much food. So, the speaker ordered salmon fish though that was expensive.

Later the speaker asked if she liked anything. The lady replied that she liked caviar though it was horribly expensive. Then she enjoyed white champagne, asparagus, coffee and finally the salmon. The speaker was sweating. He was too anxious if he could pay the bill or not. He did not take anything except a mutton chop. Finally he manages the lunch paying the total amount of whole month. After eating, she leaves in a cab without any worries. When, he finds out, in the future, that she has gained a lot of weight, he can't help but see it as karma for her behavior.

Summary:- "The Luncheon" by Maugham recounts a lunch he had with a woman who admired his writing. At the start, he is nervous about accepting the invitation to the fancy restaurants she proposes, but she assures him she never orders much - except, during the lunch she orders many dishes and only eats one at a time. Maugham is left with no money for the month, and she leaves in a cab without any worries. When he finds out, in the future, that she has gained a lot of weight, he can't help but see it as karma for her behavior.

What I Liked and did not Like :-

I like the way the speaker narrates the story. He uses metaphors in the story. As first person narrator the speaker easily depicts the inner feeling of the character. The speaker also

shows humoris narrating the story. For example at the end of the story he mentions today she weights twenty-one stone.

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He was not too rich but he was an
upcoming writer that time. He had 80 francs
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liked anything more. The lady replied that

she liked canvases though it was
horribly expensive. Then she enjoyed the
white champagne, asparagus, coffee and
faintly the salmon. The speaker was sweating
He was anxious if he could pay the bill or
not. He didn't take anything except a
mutton chop. Finally he managed paying
the lunch which was his total income
of a month.

What I liked and didn't like:

I liked the way the speaker narrated the
whole story. He was very successful depicting
the ironic beauty and sarcasm of the
story. There was humour in his story-telling
also. For example, at the end of the story
he mentioned that day that lady weighed
'twenty one stone'.

My change in the story:

If someone asked me to change the story

i would liked to decrease the number of climax. I would try to increase that flat of the climax graph. Finally i would make the story interesting to reader.

concluding statement:

Al though the story some lookings but i enjoyed reading the story very much.

It was one of the most funny stories i have read till date.

I've read an excellent short story 'The Gift of the Magi', which is a classic piece of American literature, which is written by O. Henry.

Summary:

This story is about unconditional love and self-sacrifice. Through this story, writers center on a couple Jim Dillingham Young and Della Dillingham Young who didn't have a lot of money and faced a pathetic situation to buy each other Christmas gifts. Della sold her beautiful hair to buy a chain for Jim's watch and Jim sold his watch to buy a comb for Della's hair. Their love without interest inspires all the lovers. Happiness doesn't depend on money but depends on generosity, self-sacrifice and love.

My personal opinion about this story:

I liked the plot and the twist because all the lovers can get inspiration and they will be confident even if they don't have money. Sacrifice is seen was seen in selling the things that they considered their treasures: Jim's gold watch that belonged to his grandfather and Della's lustrous, long hair that fell almost to her knees. Though Jim and Della were young, they could be foolish. But wisdom is seen

here as they thought of giving each other a suitable gift on Christmas Eve. In spite of facing such a pitiful incident, they were normal and had dinner happy happily and I liked that fact that the situation didn't affect their love.

What I didn't like about the story was the plain ending. Writers could make a satisfying ending as it is a story of love. In comparison to the plot and the twist, the ending was too much simple.

The changes I would like to bring:

First of all, I would like to make some changes in the storyline. Della could buy something which she could afford. There was no need to buy an expensive chain. Jim could buy an affordable comb for Della. Because the price of their present wouldn't affect their love. Though I would like to make changes, but I also agree with the fact that if the present weren't costly, the story wouldn't be exciting and thrilling anymore.

Concluding statement:

Jim and Della were young and poor couple. They wanted to buy each other suitable gift. Finally, they were able to buy the gifts. But by an irony of fate, the gifts became useless as Jim hadn't the watch and Della hadn't her hair anymore. We witnessed unconditional love here. Besides, we learnt that materials are not long lasting but love is. However, life without love and happiness is meaningless.