

Title: *The Making of a Story*

(Published in 2010)

by Alice LaPlante

Approved for use in

Summary of the Work (from the publisher):

The Making of a Story is a fresh and inspiring guide to the basics of creative writing—both fiction and creative nonfiction. Its hands-on, completely accessible approach walks writers through each stage of the creative process, from the initial triggering idea to the revision of the final manuscript. It is unique in combining the three main aspects of creative writing instruction: process (finding inspiration, getting ideas on the page), craft (specific techniques like characterization), and anthology (learning by reading masters of the form). Succinct, clear definitions of basic terms of fiction are accompanied by examples, including excerpts from masterpieces of short fiction and essays as well as contemporary novels. A special highlight is Alice LaPlante's systematic debunking of many of the so-called rules of creative writing. This book is perfect for writers working alone as well as for creative writing classes, both introductory and advanced."

Rationale:

The Making of a Story is comprehensive, providing a wealth of material for the instruction and practice of creative writing. LaPlante includes key excerpts from published writers to illustrate specific skills and techniques as well as tried and true exercises to practice those skills and techniques. Each exercise is accompanied by exemplar texts from LaPlante's workshops, giving students a better understanding of the expected shape and purpose of the piece of writing.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Book Passage
- Kirkus Reviews
- Booklist
- Library Journal
- * Print resources are available from the library

media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

"Alice LaPlante is an award-winning author of both fiction and nonfiction. She teaches creative writing at Stanford University, where she was awarded a Wallace Stegner Fellowship" (Author bio on Publisher's Website)

Readability

- Lexile Score: N/A (Anthology)
- Readability Level: N/A (Anthology)

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the [Learning Resources Guidelines](#).

Standard Alignment: [W.11-12.3](#), [W.11-12.10](#), [RL.11-12.3](#), [RL.11-12.4](#), [RL.11-12.5](#), [RL.11-12.6](#), [RL.11-12.10](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a text is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The text includes the following short stories and essays: "On Keeping a Notebook" by Joan Didion, "Emergency" by Dennis Johnson, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" by Joyce Carol Oates, "Welcome to Cancerland" by Barbary Ehrenreich, Excerpts from *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, "Nebraska" by Ron Hansen, "What Makes a Short Story?" by Francine Prose, "Helping" by Robert Stone, "Brownies" by ZZ Packer, "Winner Take Nothing" by Bernard Cooper, "The Lady with the Little Dog" by Anton Chekhov, "Moonrise" by Penny Wolfson, "The Swimmer" by John Cheever, "Hills like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway, "Inside the Bunker" by John Sack, "Sonny's Blues" by James Baldwin, "Surrounded by Sheep" by Akhil Sharma, "No Name Woman" by Maxine Hong Kingston, "People Like That Are the Only People Here: Canonical Babbling in Peed Onk" by Lorrie Moore, "Ralph the Duck" by Frederick Busch, "The Knife" by Richard Selzer, "The Carver Chronicles" by D.T. Max, "The Bath" by Raymond Carver, "A Small, Good Thing" by Raymond Carver, and "Learning to Drive" by Katha Pollitt

Connection to the Curriculum:

This text forms the basis of the curriculum for the Creative Writing elective at HHS

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Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

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