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Reprinted from Collected Stories of William Faulkner, by permission of Random House, Inc. From Ireland's first laureate for children's literature comes a story of abuse and neglect told with sincerity, heart, and a healthy dose of humor. Jono has always been able to cope with his mother's drinking, but when she hits his little sister Julie, he decides it's time for them to run away. Told in Jono's funny, self-conscious voice, the layers of his past and the events of his escape are gradually revealed. Amusing and touching but never sentimental, Siobhan Parkinson is a well reviewed middle-grade author who now turns her considerable skill as a writer to a young adult audience. NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A coming-of-age classic, acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught in schools and universities alike, and translated around the world—from the winner of the 2019 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. The House on Mango Street is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—Sandra Cisneros' masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers. "Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage ... and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one." —The New York Times Book Review Unlock the more straightforward side of Just So Stories with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling, a collection of stories which describe how the animals of the world came to acquire their distinctive characteristics. The collection includes the stories of how the camel got its hump, how humans developed the alphabet, how the leopard developed its spots, and much, much more. Like The Jungle Book, another collection of stories by Kipling, the Just So Stories are among the most popular works of children's fiction ever written, and have captivated generations of young readers. Find out everything you need to know about Just So Stories in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com! "The Black Cat" is a short story by Edgar Allan Poe. It was first published in the August 19, 1843, edition of The Saturday Evening Post. It is a study of the psychology of guilt, often paired in analysis with Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart". In both, a murderer carefully conceals his crime and believes himself unassailable, but eventually breaks down and reveals himself, impelled by a nagging reminder of his guilt. Unlock the more straightforward side of The Black Cat with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of The Black Cat by Edgar Allan Poe, one of the author's best-known short stories. It is told from the point of view of an unnamed narrator whose growing alcoholism leads him to believe that his once-beloved black cat has turned against him. Eventually, the narrator's paranoia drives him to mutilate and kill the cat, after which he is consumed with guilt that only spurs him to commit even more terrible deeds... Edgar Allan Poe was an American short story

writer, poet, critic, novelist and editor. He is best known for his stories of mystery and horror, which stand out for their chilling atmosphere and vivid, memorable characters. Find out everything you need to know about *The Black Cat* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:

- A complete plot summary
- Character studies
- Key themes and symbols
- Questions for further reflection

Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com! Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold short story collection—written by some of the best children’s authors including Kwame Alexander, Meg Medina, Jacqueline Woodson, and many more and published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books—celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us. “Will resonate with any kid who’s ever felt different—which is to say, every kid.” —Time Great stories take flight in this adventurous middle-grade anthology crafted by ten of the most recognizable and diverse authors writing today. Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander delivers a story in-verse about a boy who just might have magical powers; National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson spins a tale of friendship against all odds; and Meg Medina uses wet paint to color in one girl’s world with a short story that inspired her Newbery award-winner *Merci Suárez Changes Gear*. Plus, seven more bold voices that bring this collection to new heights with tales that challenge, inspire, and celebrate the unique talents within us all. AUTHORS INCLUDE: Kwame Alexander, Kelly J. Baptist, Soman Chainani, Matt de la Peña, Tim Federle, Grace Lin, Meg Medina, Walter Dean Myers, Tim Tingle, Jacqueline Woodson “There’s plenty of magic in this collection to go around.” —Booklist, Starred “A natural for middle school classrooms and libraries.” —Kirkus Reviews, Starred “Inclusive, authentic, and eminently readable.” —School Library Journal, Starred “Thought provoking and wide-ranging . . . should not be missed.”—Publishers Weekly, Starred “Read more books by these authors.” —The Bulletin, Starred Presents the text of Alice Walker’s story “Everyday Use”; contains background essays that provide insight into the story; and features a selection of critical response. Includes a chronology and an interview with the author. In his second collection, including the iconic and much-referenced title story featured in the Academy Award-winning film *Birdman*, Carver establishes his reputation as one of the most celebrated short-story writers in American literature—a haunting meditation on love, loss, and companionship, and finding one’s way through the dark. From the bestselling author of *The Girls* comes a “brilliant” (The New York Times) story collection exploring the dark corners of human experience. “Daddy’s ten masterful, provocative stories confirm that Cline is a staggering talent.”—Esquire NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY An absentee father collects his son from boarding school after a shocking act of violence. A nanny to a celebrity family hides out in Laurel Canyon in the aftermath of a tabloid scandal. A young woman sells her underwear to strangers. A notorious guest arrives at a placid, not-quite rehab in the Southwest. In ten remarkable stories, Emma Cline portrays moments when the ordinary is disturbed, when daily life buckles, revealing the perversity and violence pulsing under the surface. She explores characters navigating the edge, the limits of themselves and those around them: power dynamics in families, in relationships, the distance between their true and false selves. They want connection, but what they provoke is often closer to self-sabotage. What are the costs of one’s choices? Of the moments when we act, or fail to act? These complexities are at the heart of *Daddy*, Emma Cline’s sharp-eyed illumination of the contrary impulses that animate our inner lives. A piercingly raw debut story collection from a young writer with an explosive voice; a treacherously surreal, and, at times, heartbreakingly satirical look at what it’s like to be young and black in America. O. Henry specialized in surprise endings. In “Makes the Whole World Kin,” a burglar enters a house, but after conversing with the owner, decided to buy him a drink instead of robbing him. In “Squaring the Circle,” an unusual chain of events reconciles a man to his enemy. “The Unfinished Story” is a bitter satire. Other stories treated are “The Roads We Take,” Phoebe,” “The Gift of the Magi,” “Mammon and the Archer,” “The Last Leaf,” etc. For those who have not yet

read O. Henry's story, this is a good introduction. For those who have read this author, it is a good review. An interactive, multimedia text that introduces students to reading and writing at the college level. NATIONAL BESTSELLER • "Part horror tale, part mystery, part romance ... utterly fantastic."—O, The Oprah Magazine • The bestselling, award-winning author of *A Visit from the Goon Squad* brilliantly conjures a world from which escape is impossible and where the keep—the tower, the last stand—is both everything worth protecting and the very thing that must be surrendered in order to survive. Two cousins, irreversibly damaged by a childhood prank, reunite twenty years later to renovate a medieval castle in Eastern Europe. In an environment of extreme paranoia, cut off from the outside world, the men reenact the signal event of their youth, with even more catastrophic results. And as the full horror of their predicament unfolds, a prisoner, in jail for an unnamed crime, recounts an unforgettable story that seamlessly brings the crimes of the past and present into piercing relation. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • Latinas of Indigenous descent living in the American West take center stage in this haunting debut story collection—a powerful meditation on friendship, mothers and daughters, and the deep-rooted truths of our homelands. "Here are stories that blaze like wildfires, with characters who made me laugh and broke my heart."—Sandra Cisneros WINNER OF THE AMERICAN BOOK AWARD • FINALIST FOR THE STORY PRIZE • FINALIST FOR THE PEN/ROBERT W. BINGHAM PRIZE FOR DEBUT SHORT STORY COLLECTION Kali Fajardo-Anstine's magnetic story collection breathes life into her Latina characters of indigenous ancestry and the land they inhabit in the American West. Against the remarkable backdrop of Denver, Colorado—a place that is as fierce as it is exquisite—these women navigate the land the way they navigate their lives: with caution, grace, and quiet force. In "Sugar Babies," ancestry and heritage are hidden inside the earth but tend to rise during land disputes. "Any Further West" follows a sex worker and her daughter as they leave their ancestral home in southern Colorado only to find a foreign and hostile land in California. In "Tomi," a woman leaves prison and finds herself in a gentrified city that is a shadow of the one she remembers from her childhood. And in the title story, "Sabrina & Corina," a Denver family falls into a cycle of violence against women, coming together only through ritual. *Sabrina & Corina* is a moving narrative of unrelenting feminine power and an exploration of the universal experiences of abandonment, heritage, and an eternal sense of home. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Public Library • Kirkus Reviews • Library Journal "Sabrina & Corina isn't just good, it's masterful storytelling. Fajardo-Anstine is a fearless writer: her women are strong and scarred witnesses of the violations of their homelands, their culture, their bodies; her plots turn and surprise, unerring and organic in their comprehensiveness; her characters break your heart, but you keep on going because you know you are in the hands of a master. Her stories move through the heart of darkness and illuminate it with the soul of truth."—Julia Alvarez, author of *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* "[A] powerhouse debut . . . stylistically superb, with crisp dialogue and unforgettable characters, *Sabrina & Corina* introduces an impressive new talent to American letters."—Rigoberto González, NBC News In this collection of sixteen stories, Gordimer brings unforgettable characters from every corner of society to life: a child refugee fleeing civil war in Mozambique; a black activist's deserted wife longing for better times; a rich safari party indulging themselves while lionesses circle their lodge. *Jump* is a vivid, disturbing and rewarding portrait of life in South Africa under apartheid. These twelve dazzling stories from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie — the Orange Broadband Prize-winning author of *Half of a Yellow Sun* — are her most intimate works to date. In these stories Adichie turns her penetrating eye to the ties that bind men and women, parents and children, Nigeria and the United States. In "A Private Experience," a medical student hides from a violent riot with a poor Muslim woman, and the young mother at the centre of "Imitation" finds her comfortable life in Philadelphia threatened when she learns that her husband has moved his mistress into their Lagos home. Searing and profound, suffused with beauty, sorrow and longing, this collection is a resounding confirmation of Adichie's prodigious literary powers. Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school's track team, gifted runner Ghost finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with a violent father. The universally-acclaimed return of the

New York Times bestselling author of *Fates and Furies* and *Matrix*. In Lauren Groff's *Florida*, the hot sun shines, but a wild darkness lurks. *Florida* is a "superlative" book (*Boston Globe*), "gorgeously weird and limber" (*New Yorker*), "frequently funny" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), "brooding, inventive and often moving" (*NPR Fresh Air*) -- as Groff is recognized as "Florida's unofficial poet laureate, as Joan Didion was for California." (*Washington Post*) "Groff's gifts as a writer just keep soaring higher and higher." - *NPR's Fresh Air*

In her thrilling new book, Lauren Groff brings the reader into a physical world that is at once domestic and wild—a place where the hazards of the natural world lie waiting to pounce, yet the greatest threats and mysteries are still of an emotional, psychological nature. A family retreat can be derailed by a prowling panther, or by a sexual secret. Among those navigating this place are a resourceful pair of abandoned sisters; a lonely boy, grown up; a restless, childless couple, a searching, homeless woman; and an unforgettable, recurring character—a steely and conflicted wife and mother. The stories in this collection span characters, towns, decades, even centuries, but Florida—its landscape, climate, history, and state of mind—becomes its gravitational center: an energy, a mood, as much as a place of residence. Groff transports the reader, then jolts us alert with a crackle of wit, a wave of sadness, a flash of cruelty, as she writes about loneliness, rage, family, and the passage of time. With shocking accuracy and effect, she pinpoints the moments and decisions and connections behind human pleasure and pain, hope and despair, love and fury—the moments that make us alive. Startling, precise, and affecting, *Florida* is a magnificent achievement. A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 *Carried Away* is a dazzling selection of stories—seventeen favorites chosen by the author from across her distinguished career. With an Introduction by Margaret Atwood. Alice Munro has been repeatedly hailed as one of our greatest living writers, a reputation that has been growing for years. The stories brought together here span a quarter century, drawn from some of her earliest books, *The Beggar Maid* and *The Moons of Jupiter*, through her recent best-selling collection, *Runaway*. Here are such favorites as "Royal Beatings" in which a young girl, her father, and stepmother release the tension of their circumstances in a ritual of punishment and reconciliation; "Friend of My Youth" in which a woman comes to understand that her difficult mother is not so very different from herself; and "The Albanian Virgin," a romantic tale of capture and escape in Central Europe that may or may not be true but that nevertheless comforts the hearer, who is on a desperate adventure of her own. Munro's incomparable empathy for her characters, the depth of her understanding of human nature, and the grace and surprise of her narrative add up to a richly layered and capacious fiction. Like the World War I soldier in the title story, whose letters from the front to a small-town librarian he doesn't know change her life forever, Munro's unassuming characters insinuate themselves in our hearts and take permanent hold. Eighteen science fiction stories deal with love, madness, and death on Mars, Venus, and in space. *Brokeback Mountain* is the story of Ennis del Mar and Jack Twist, two cowboys who share a small cabin while working as herders and camp tenders during a summer spent on a range far above the tree line. They fall into a relationship that at first seems solely sexual—but then reveals itself to be something more. Both men marry and have families, but over the course of many years and frequent separations they find their relationship becomes the most important thing in both their lives, and they do anything they can to maintain it. Proulx's description of their bond is beautiful and haunting—and often brutal in its portrayal of the hardships, and ultimately the violence,

they face. Perfect for both moviegoers and Proulx's already well-established legions of readers, this volume is a handsome and timely edition of one of the most talked-about stories of recent years. With delicate language and wisdom, Madeleine Thien explores the longing of families pulled apart by conflicts between generations, cultures, and values. Each of these stories captures a deeply personal world in which characters struggle to reconcile family loyalty with individual desires. In "House," a 10-year-old girl longs for the alcoholic mother who left the house one day never to return. In "Dispatch," a woman tries to hold her marriage together even after finding proof that her husband is in love with someone else. In "A Map of the City," a young woman's troubled relationship with her father overshadows the course she takes in her adult life. Thien's fresh perspective and spare, haunting prose have already won her prizes and the praise of established masters. "Simple Recipes" is the beginning of a luminous writing career. Mrs. Louise Mallard, afflicted with a heart condition, reflects on the death of her husband from the safety of her locked room. Originally published in Vogue magazine, "The Story of an Hour" was retitled as "The Dream of an Hour," when it was published amid much controversy under its new title a year later in St. Louis Life. "The Story of an Hour" was adapted to film in *The Joy That Kills* by director Tina Rathbone, which was part of a PBS anthology called *American Playhouse*. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library. A collection of short stories that explore the lives of teenagers affected directly or indirectly by drugs. NATIONAL BESTSELLER • ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR • Nine stunningly original, provocative, and poignant stories—two published for the very first time—all from the mind of the incomparable author of *Stories of Your Life and Others* Tackling some of humanity's oldest questions along with new quandaries only he could imagine, these stories will change the way you think, feel, and see the world. They are Ted Chiang at his best: profound, sympathetic, revelatory. Ted Chiang tackles some of humanity's oldest questions along with new quandaries only he could imagine. In "The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate," a portal through time forces a fabric seller in ancient Baghdad to grapple with past mistakes and second chances. In "Exhalation," an alien scientist makes a shocking discovery with ramifications that are literally universal. In "Anxiety Is the Dizziness of Freedom," the ability to glimpse into alternate universes necessitates a radically new examination of the concepts of choice and free will. From the author of *Exhalation*, an award-winning short story collection that blends "absorbing storytelling with meditations on the universe, being, time and space ... raises questions about the nature of reality and what it is to be human" (*The New York Times*). *Stories of Your Life and Others* delivers dual delights of the very, very strange and the heartbreakingly familiar, often presenting characters who must confront sudden change—the inevitable rise of automatons or the appearance of aliens—with some sense of normalcy. With sharp intelligence and humor, Chiang examines what it means to be alive in a world marked by uncertainty, but also by beauty and wonder. An award-winning collection from one of today's most lauded writers, *Stories of Your Life and Others* is a contemporary classic. Includes "Story of Your Life"—the basis for the major motion picture *Arrival* Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 The younger son went off and spent all his inheritance. Then a famine occurred, and he was forced to find a job to support himself. When he returned home, he found his father had sacrificed the grain-fed calf because his son was dead, but he had come back to life. #2 The parable of the Prodigal Son is about a sinner repenting and God forgiving him, which is what many of Luke's readers believed it to be. But the original meaning of the parable was not about sinners repenting and God forgiving them, but about finding the lost and reclaiming children. #3 The parable of the Prodigal Son is often used to convey the message of wasted resources, but it can also be understood as the story of the Beloved Son, who left the paradise of his heavenly father to go and live in the world of sin. #4 The allegorical connection between the parable and Christianity is that the father is God the Father, and the elder brother is Jesus, the prodigal who repents of his sin and is welcomed back by the gracious God. Paul is a schoolboy, described as tall and thin with strange eyes. He is facing the headmaster and several of

his teachers, with whom he does not have a good relationship. All of them, in one way or another, find him difficult and disturbing to teach. Set on a coastal stretch of Western Australia, Tim Winton's stunning collection of connected stories is about turnings of all kinds -- changes of heart, slow awakenings, nasty surprises and accidents, sudden detours, resolves made or broken. Brothers cease speaking to each other, husbands abandon wives and children, grown men are haunted by childhood fears. People struggle against the weight of their own history and try to reconcile themselves to their place in the world. With extraordinary insight and tenderness, Winton explores the demons and frailties of ordinary people whose lives are not what they had hoped. Unlock the more straightforward side of *I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of *I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere* by Anna Gavalda, a charming collection of short stories which focus on the ups and downs of everyday life in France. Gavalda's lively writing style brings each story and its characters to life, and the sparks of romance and love stories scattered throughout the collection are sure to delight any fan of romance fiction. Anna Gavalda is a bestselling French author whose novels have been translated into numerous languages, and a number of them have also been adapted for the cinema. Find out everything you need to know about *I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:

- A complete plot summary
- Character studies
- Key themes and symbols
- Questions for further reflection

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- Character studies
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and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com! WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 A New York Times Notable Book A Washington Post Notable Work of Fiction A Best Book of the Year: The Atlantic, NPR, San Francisco Chronicle, Vogue, AV Club In story after story in this brilliant new collection, Alice Munro pinpoints the moment a person is forever altered by a chance encounter, an action not taken, or a simple twist of fate. Her characters are flawed and fully human: a soldier returning from war and avoiding his fiancée, a wealthy woman deciding whether to confront a blackmailer, an adulterous mother and her neglected children, a guilt-ridden father, a young teacher jilted by her employer. Illumined by Munro's unflinching insight, these lives draw us in with their quiet depth and surprise us with unexpected turns. And while most are set in her signature territory around Lake Huron, some strike even closer to home: an astonishing suite of four autobiographical tales offers an unprecedented glimpse into Munro's own childhood. Exalted by her clarity of vision and her unparalleled gift for storytelling, Dear Life shows how strange, perilous, and extraordinary ordinary life can be. WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE® IN LITERATURE 2013 Alice Munro, who received the National Book Critics Circle Award for her latest collection of stories, The Love of a Good Woman, is widely acknowledged as a modern master of the short story. In this earlier collection, she demonstrates all of those strengths that have won her so many literary accolades. A divorced woman returns to her childhood home where she confronts the memory of her parents' confounding yet deep bond. The accidental near-drowning of a child exposes the fragility of the trust between children and parents. A young man, remembering a terrifying childhood incident, wrestles with the responsibility he has always felt for his younger brother. In these and other stories Alice Munro proves once again a sensitive and compassionate chronicler of our times. Drawing us into the most intimate corners of ordinary lives, she reveals much about ourselves, our choices, and our experiences of love. Eleven stories narrated by a young recovering alcoholic, whose dependency has led him to crime, cruelty, and loss in the Midwest, depict the disparity of emotions that constitute the American experience.

- [Jump And Other Stories](#)
- [The Story Of The Three Bears](#)
- [Stories Of Your Life And Others](#)
- [Flying Lessons Other Stories](#)
- [In Our Time](#)
- [Summaries Of Short Stories Of O Henry](#)
- [Sabrina Corina](#)
- [The Progress Of Love](#)
- [The Illustrated Man](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Everyday Use](#)
- [The Things They Carried](#)
- [Brokeback Mountain](#)
- [Long Story Short](#)
- [The Black Cat](#)
- [I Wish Someone Were Waiting For Me Somewhere By Anna Gavalda Book Analysis](#)
- [Changing Colours](#)
- [Simple Recipes](#)
- [Pauls Case](#)
- [The Turning](#)

- [The Word On College Reading And Writing](#)
- [Just So Stories By Rudyard Kipling Book Analysis](#)
- [Exhalation](#)
- [The House On Mango Street](#)
- [Dear Life](#)
- [Summary Of Amy Jill Levines Short Stories By Jesus](#)
- [Daddy](#)
- [Carried Away](#)
- [The Keep](#)
- [The Thing Around Your Neck](#)
- [Friday Black](#)
- [Breath](#)
- [Jesus Son](#)
- [Barn Burning](#)
- [The Story Of An Hour](#)
- [What We Talk About When We Talk About Love](#)
- [City On Fire By Garth Risk Hallberg Book Analysis](#)
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- [Ghost](#)
- [Lunch With Lenin And Other Stories](#)