

Chapter 1 : James Thurber (Author of The Secret Life of Walter Mitty)

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. By James Thurber. Illustration by Rebekka Dunlap "We're going through!" The Commander's voice was like thin ice breaking. He wore his full-dress uniform.

Both of his parents greatly influenced his work. His father was a sporadically employed clerk and minor politician who dreamed of being a lawyer or an actor. Thurber described his mother as a "born comedian" and "one of the finest comic talents I think I have ever known. When Thurber was seven years old, he and one of his brothers were playing a game of William Tell, when his brother shot James in the eye with an arrow. He was unable to participate in sports and other activities in his childhood because of this injury, but he developed a creative mind which he used to express himself in writings. High school graduation photo, East high school Thurber family portrait taken in Columbus, Ohio in 1914. From left to right: It was during this time he rented the house on 77 Jefferson Avenue, which became Thurber House in 1915. On returning to Columbus, he began his career as a reporter for The Columbus Dispatch from 1916 to 1918. During part of this time, he reviewed books, films, and plays in a weekly column called "Credos and Curios", a title that was given to a posthumous collection of his work. Thurber returned to Paris during this period, where he wrote for the Chicago Tribune and other newspapers. He joined the staff of The New Yorker in 1925 as an editor, with the help of E. White, his friend and fellow New Yorker contributor. Thurber contributed both his writings and his drawings to The New Yorker until the 1950s. Thurber was stricken with a blood clot on the brain on October 4, 1954, and underwent emergency surgery, drifting in and out of consciousness. The operation was initially successful, but Thurber died a few weeks later, on November 2, aged 66, due to complications from pneumonia. The doctors said his brain was senescent from several small strokes and hardening of the arteries. His last words, aside from the repeated word "God", were "God bless God damn", according to his wife, Helen. Both his skills were helped along by the support of, and collaboration with, fellow New Yorker staff member E. Thurber drew six covers and numerous classic illustrations for The New Yorker. A number of his short stories were made into movies, including "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty". Many of his short stories are humorous fictional memoirs from his life, but he also wrote darker material, such as "The Whip-Poor-Will", a story of madness and murder. The Middle-Aged Man on the Flying Trapeze has several short stories with a tense undercurrent of marital discord. The book was published the year of his divorce and remarriage. Louis Browns in Veeck claimed an older provenance for the stunt, but was certainly aware of the Thurber story. These were short stories that featured anthropomorphic animals etc. A favorite subject, especially toward the end of his life, was the English language. His short pieces – whether stories, essays or something in between – were referred to as "casuals" by Thurber and the staff of The New Yorker. He wrote a five-part New Yorker series, between 1938 and 1940, examining in depth the radio soap opera phenomenon, based on near-constant listening and researching over the same period. Leaving nearly no element of these programs unexamined, including their writers, producers, sponsors, performers, and listeners alike, Thurber republished the series in his anthology, *The Beast in Me and Other Animals*, under the section title "Soapland. Cartoonist[edit] While Thurber drew his cartoons in the usual fashion in the 1930s and 1940s, his failing eyesight later required changes. He drew them on very large sheets of paper using a thick black crayon or on black paper using white chalk, from which they were photographed and the colors reversed for publication. Regardless of method, his cartoons became as noted as his writings; they possessed an eerie, wobbly feel that seems to mirror his idiosyncratic view on life. He once wrote that people said it looked like he drew them under water. Dorothy Parker, a contemporary and friend of Thurber, referred to his cartoons as having the "semblance of unbaked cookies". The last drawing Thurber completed was a self-portrait in yellow crayon on black paper, which was featured as the cover of *Time* magazine on July 9, 1955. In his short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", was loosely adapted as a film by the same name. Danny Kaye played the title character. Thurber appeared in the sketch "File and Forget". The sketch consists of Thurber dictating a series of letters in a vain attempt to keep one of his publishers from sending him books he did not order, and the escalating confusion of the replies. It starred William Windom as the Thurber figure. Windom won an Emmy as well. He went on to perform Thurber material in a one-man stage show. Books[

edit] Is Sex Necessary? White , 75th anniv.

Chapter 2 : James Thurber Short Story

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" () is a short story by James Thurber. The most famous of Thurber's stories, it first appeared in The New Yorker on March 18, , and was first collected in his book My World and Welcome to It (Harcourt, Brace and Company,).

Get Full Essay Get access to this section to get all help you need with your essay and educational issues. Some of the scenes of the story took place at the streets of Waterbury while Walter Mitty and Mrs. Mitty were driving on their way to the parlor and shopping mall, while some of the scenes took place at the said establishments. Plot – The story basically revolved on the five fantasies that Walter Mitty imagined while travelling and doing some errands. His second fantasy portrays himself as a brilliant surgeon and was about to conduct a delicate surgery with his gloves being placed to commence the operation. It was followed by his third fantasy as an assassin testifying before the court and acting all-cool. Lastly, in the latter part of the story, Walter Mitty saw himself in front of a firing squad ready to face his death and bravely standing strong up to his last breath. Instead, it keeps a person farther from grasping the reality and living in the world. More than that, James Thurber also used a methodological narration where he linked a certain event in the life of Walter Mitty to his escapist self entering fantasy world. It is the turning point of the story because it somehow symbolized the death of the fantasies of Walter Mitty considering his four daydreams prior to that, which all ended up unresolved. Protagonist – Primarily, the protagonist in the story is Walter Mitty considering that he was the character given much emphasis especially in the manner that he imagined his secret life and how he portrayed his inner self. Symbols – The five symbolic things in the story are those which triggered Walter Mitty to daydream. The first one is the car which he was driving in a very rapid manner which made him imagine his accelerating their vessel to overcome the hurricane. The gloves also symbolized the surgery scene perceived by Walter Mitty when Mrs. Mitty told him to wear his gloves while driving. Lastly, the wall and the cigarette in the latter part of the story acted as symbols for the firing squad scene the protagonist imagined. How the story begins and ends – The story began with the fantasy of Walter Mitty which ended up unresolved because it was interrupted by his wife. The same situation occurred with his other dreams as those were also disturbed by the real-life situations around the character. The story ended with the death of Walter Mitty in his dream as he faced the firing squad and ended up downcasted and remorseful. External and Internal conflict – The external conflict Walter Mitty encountered is his difficulty to cope up with the situations before him and the errands that he was supposed to accomplish. In the same manner, he also struggled in overcoming his internal conflict wherein his fantasies always end up unresolved and hanging without any redemptive moments for him to cherish. Sociological interpretations of the story – Understanding the story through the lens of sociology or how people interact in the society, it is observable that Walter Mitty is not an outspoken man and assertive. In doing such, one does not resolve both his inner desires and external situations since the two cannot occur at the same time. Considering that Walter Mitty has already been recognized as the protagonist of the story, his wife basically served as a channel and medium in allowing the circumstances for Walter Mitty to create his imaginative life. Works Cited Thurber, James. More essays like this:

Chapter 3 : The Secret Life of Walter Mitty by James Thurber | Essay Example

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (Novella) by James Thurber 5 stars... and favorite I bought this very short ebook to read before I saw the movie. It is very short.

Both of his parents greatly influenced his work. His father, a sporadically employed clerk and minor politician who dreamed of being a lawyer or an actor, is said to have been the inspiration for the small, timid protagonist typical of many of his stories. Thurber described his mother as a "born comedienne" and "one of the finest comic talents I think I have ever known. Thurber had two brothers, William and Robert. Once, while playing a game of William Tell, his brother William shot James in the eye with an arrow. Because of the lack of medical technology, Thurber lost his eye. This injury would later cause him to be almost entirely blind. During his childhood he was unable to participate in sports and activities because of his injury, and instead developed a creative imagination, which he shared in his writings. He never graduated from the University because his poor eyesight prevented him from taking a mandatory ROTC course. In he was posthumously awarded a degree. After this Thurber returned to Columbus, where he began his writing career as a reporter for the Columbus Dispatch from to During part of this time, he reviewed current books, films, and plays in a weekly column called "Credos and Curios," a title that later would be given to a posthumous collection of his work. Thurber also returned to Paris in this period, where he wrote for the Chicago Tribune and other newspapers. He joined the staff of The New Yorker in as an editor with the help of his friend and fellow New Yorker contributor, E. Thurber would contribute both his writings and his drawings to The New Yorker until the s. Thurber was married twice. In , Thurber married Althea Adams. The marriage was troubled and ended in divorce in May Adams gave Thurber his only child, his daughter Rosemary. Thurber remarried in June, to Helen Wismer. His second marriage lasted until he died in , at the age of 66, due to complications from pneumonia, which followed upon a stroke suffered at his home. His last words, aside from the repeated word "God," were "God bless God damn," according to Helen Thurber.

Chapter 4 : The Secret Life of Walter Mitty: James Thurber: calendrierdelascience.com: Books

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" tells the story of the aging Walter Mitty on a trip into town with his overbearing wife, Mrs. Mitty. Walter is inept at many things; he is an absent-minded driver, he can't handle simple mechanical tasks, and he forgets things easily. What makes Walter exceptional.

He wore his full-dress uniform, with the heavily braided white cap pulled down rakishly over one cold gray eye. Rev her up to 8,! The Commander stared at the ice forming on the pilot window. He walked over and twisted a row of complicated dials. He looked at his wife, in the seat beside him, with shocked astonishment. She seemed grossly unfamiliar, like a strange woman who had yelled at him in a crowd. You were up to fifty-five. Renshaw look you over. She put her mirror back into her bag. Have you lost your gloves? He put them on, but after she had turned and gone into the building and he had driven on to a red light, he took them off again. He drove around the streets aimlessly for a time, and then he drove past the hospital on his way to the parking lot. Benbow, but there are two specialists here, Dr. Remington from New York and Mr. He looked distraught and haggard. Obstreosis of the ductal tract. In the operating room there were whispered introductions: A huge, complicated machine, connected to the operating table, with many tubes and wires, began at this moment to go pocketa-pocketa-pocketa. He sprang to the machine, which was going pocketa-pocketa-queep-pocketa-queep. He began fingering delicately a row of glistening dials. Someone handed him a fountain pen. He pulled a faulty piston out of the machine and inserted the pen in its place. They slipped a white gown on him; he adjusted a mask and drew on thin gloves; nurses handed him shiningâ€

Pages:

Chapter 5 : The Secret Life of Walter Mitty Summary - calendrierdelascience.com

"Walter Mitty: To see the world, things dangerous to come to, to see behind walls, draw closer, to find each other, and to feel. That is the purpose of life."

Physical descriptions associate him with cold and ice. This distances him from the real Mitty and emphasizes his commanding role—the exact opposite of the meek and passive role Mitty plays in his own life. It also allows the story to start off mid-fantasy without tipping its hand that it is mid-fantasy. Mitty calls out a warning not to drive so fast, and it is revealed that the naval commander was part of a fantasy Walter Mitty has been having as he drives his car. Humor comes from the ironic juxtaposition of the fantasy and the reality. Mitty suggests that he see Dr. Renshaw for a checkup. Mitty and his wife understand each other so little that they really could be strangers. Her assumption that whatever is bothering Walter must be physical illness shows her insensitivity to his psychological needs. Walter Mitty drops Mrs. Mitty off at the hair salon. When the light changes, a cop snaps at him to hurry, and Mitty puts the gloves back on before he drives away. He responds to shame by concealing himself, putting the gloves back on. Active Themes When he drives past the hospital, Mitty falls into another fantasy. Active Themes Mitty meets the two specialists and graciously accepts their compliments. While an interne panics, Mitty calmly and quickly fixes the machine by replacing a faulty piston with a fountain pen. Renshaw nervously asks Mitty to take over. Mitty regains power over the overshoes and Dr. Renshaw, and by extension his wife, by providing health and strength they do not have. However, his heroic acts are laughably unrealistic. Active Themes Related Quotes with Explanations Before Mitty can make his first cut, a shout from the parking-lot attendant interrupts the fantasy: Mitty has driven into the exit-only lane. Mitty has made him drive to a garage whenever the chains need changing. Mitty assumes the young men are judging him. He kicks resentfully at the slush on the sidewalk, which reminds him to buy overshoes. Mitty told him to buy. Humor comes from the irony of Mrs. Active Themes Related Quotes with Explanations Hearing a newsboy shouting something about a trial, Mitty has a fantasy in which he is on trial for murder. When his attorney claims that he could not have committed the crime because his arm was in a sling, Mitty announces that he could have made the shot that killed the victim even with his left hand. Here, however, Mitty rejects the sling as an alibi: The scene also marks the beginning of a trend toward darker fantasies. Active Themes —which reminds him that he was supposed to buy puppy biscuit. He is again embarrassed by a stranger, this time a woman, whose laughter at him directly contrasts the appearance of the beautiful woman in the fantasy. A young, deferential sergeant describes the danger of the mission and advises Mitty not to go. In the fantasy, his ability to contain and conceal both his feelings and his liquor is part of what proves him a hero. Mitty arrives at the hotel and scolds her husband for sitting in a hard-to-find spot and for not putting on his overshoes yet. Mitty says she will take his temperature once she gets him home.

Chapter 6 : The Secret Life of Walter Mitty Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Walter Mitty drove on toward Waterbury in silence, the roaring of the SN through the worst storm in twenty years of Navy flying fading in the remote, intimate airways of his mind. "You're tensed up again," said Mrs. Mitty.

He wore his full-dress uniform, with the heavily braided white cap pulled down rakishly over one cold gray eye. Rev her up to ! The Commander stared at the ice forming on the pilot window. He walked over and twisted a row of complicated dials. He looked at his wife, in the seat beside him, with shocked astonishment. She seemed grossly unfamiliar, like a strange woman who had yelled at him in a crowd. You were up to fifty-five. Renshaw look you over. She put her mirror back into her bag. Have you lost your gloves? He put them on, but after she had turned and gone into the building and he had driven on to a red light, he took them off again. He drove around the streets aimlessly for a time, and then he drove past the hospital on his way to the parking lot. Benbow, but there are two specialists here, Dr. Remington from New York and Dr. He looked distraught and haggard. Obstreosis of the ductal tract. In the operating room there were whispered introductions: A huge, complicated machine, connected to the operating table, with many tubes and wires, began at this moment to go pocketa-pocketa-pocketa. He sprang to the machine, which was now going pocketa-pocketa-queep-pocketa-queep. He began fingering delicately a row of glistening dials. Someone handed him a fountain pen. He pulled a faulty piston out of the machine and inserted the pen in its place. A nurse hurried over and whispered to Renshaw, and Mitty saw the man turn pale. They slipped a white gown on him, he adjusted a mask and drew on thin gloves; nurses handed him shining. Look out for that Buick! He began cautiously to back out of the lane marked "Exit Only. The attendant vaulted into the car, backed it up with insolent skill, and put it where it belonged. Once he had tried to take his chains off, outside New Milford, and he had got them wound around the axles. A man had had to come out in a wrecking car and unwind them, a young, grinning garageman. Mitty always made him drive to a garage to have the chains taken off. He kicked at the slush on the sidewalk. When he came out into the street again, with the overshoes in a box under his arm, Walter Mitty began to wonder what the other thing was his wife had told him to get. She had told him, twice before they set out from their house for Waterbury. In a way he hated these weekly trips to town--he was always getting something wrong. Tooth paste, toothbrush, bicarbonate, Carborundum, initiative and referendum? He gave it up. But she would remember it. An excited buzz ran around the courtroom. The Judge rapped for order. We have shown that he wore his right arm in a sling on the night of the fourteenth of July. The District Attorney struck at her savagely. Without rising from his chair, Mitty let the man have it on the point of the chin. He stopped walking and the buildings of Waterbury rose up out of the misty courtroom and surrounded him again. A woman who was passing laughed. He went into an A. He found a big leather chair in the lobby, facing a window, and he put the overshoes and the puppy biscuit on the floor beside it. He picked up an old copy of Liberty and sank down into the chair. Captain Mitty looked up at him through tousled hair. War thundered and whined around the dugout and battered at the door. There was a rending of wood and splinters flew through the room. Mitty finished one last brandy. Walter Mitty walked to the door of the dugout humming "Aupres de Ma Blonde. Something struck his shoulder. How did you expect me to find you? They went out through the revolving doors that made a faintly derisive whistling sound when you pushed them. It was two blocks to the parking lot. At the drugstore on the corner she said, "Wait here for me. Walter Mitty lighted a cigarette. It began to rain, rain with sleet in it. He stood up against the wall of the drugstore, smoking. He put his shoulders back and his heels together. He took one last drag on his cigarette and snapped it away. Then, with that faint, fleeting smile playing about his lips, he faced the firing squad; erect and motionless, proud and disdainful, Walter Mitty the Undefeated, inscrutable to the last.

Chapter 7 : The Secret Life of Walter Mitty - Wikipedia

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty by James Thurber Essay Sample Setting - The setting of the story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber, took place at the streets and different places at Waterbury, Connecticut where Walter

Mitty shared his secret life (Thurber n.p).

Chapter 8 : The Secret Life of Walter Mitty () - IMDb

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" portrays a marriage in which the wife is domineering, controlling, bossy, and in short, "wearing the pants." Her husband, Walter Mitty, is by contrast passive, sub.

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Walter Mitty is a daydreamer. He's in the car when the story opens, and to escape the boredom and monotony of his life he starts to daydream about being a military commander, a surgeon, a bomber.