

UNIT 6 Hard Times
Depression and World War II 1929–1945

A STEINWALD
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Epic Generation



THE JILTING OF GRANNY WEATHERALL

with **Jim Soto**

SPEAK YOUR MIND

I know. It's almost impossible to imagine it!

Do it anyway.

Imagine what you will be like when you are old.

What memories likely will stay with you? Why?

Take a minute to consider, answer and explain the question in your notebook.



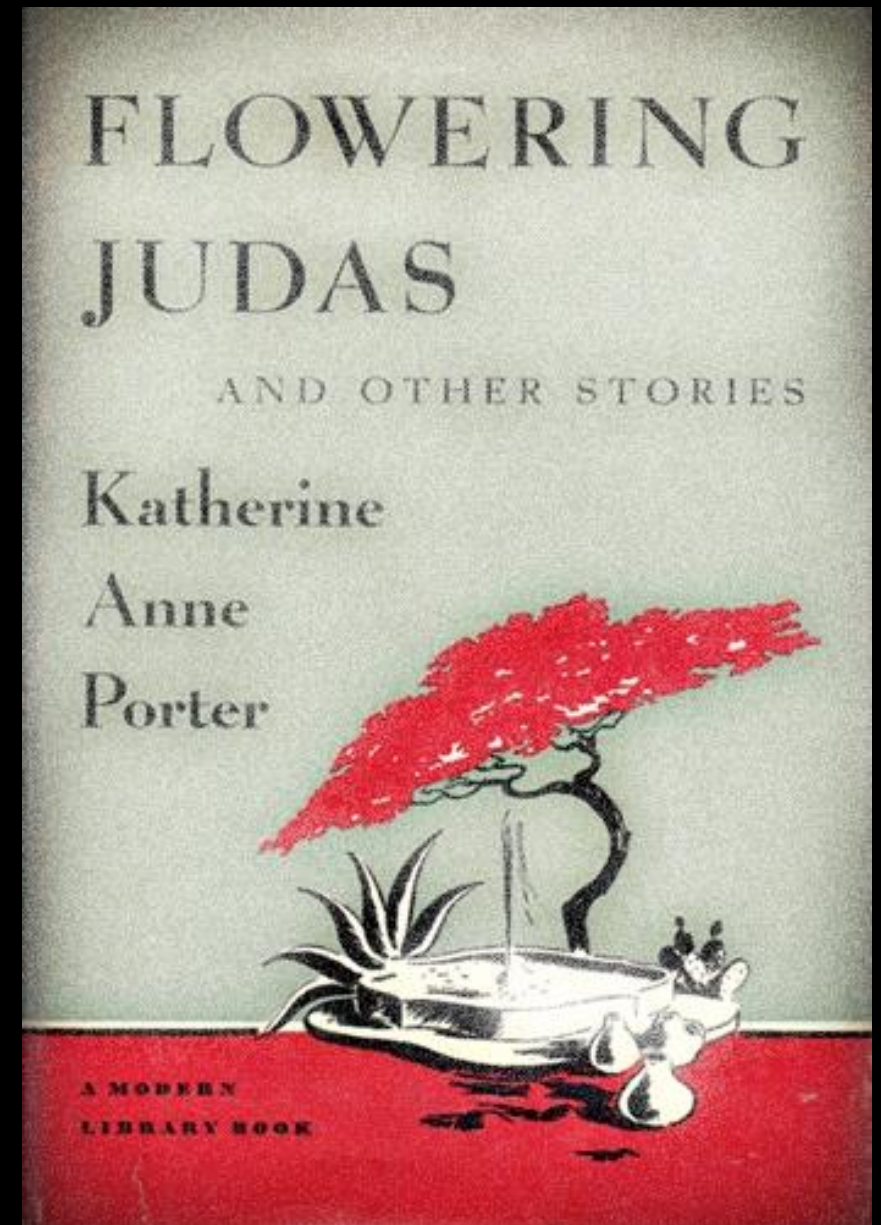
Katherine Anne Porter's "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" is the story of a dying woman's memory of being left at the altar on her wedding day. The title character presumably is based on Porter's own grandmother, with whom she lived as a young child. The story is set in Texas, where Porter grew up.



A third parallel between the story and the author's life is that Porter herself nearly died from influenza at age twenty-eight. In fact, her funeral arrangements had been made and her obituary had been written.

Porter later claimed that this experience caused her to contemplate the realities of death and the possibility of an afterlife. Religious themes run through much of her writing, as do themes of lost Southern values and lifestyles.

Like all the short stories published in Porter's 1930 collection *Flowering Judas*, "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" first was published in a literary magazine, *transitions*. Porter's early audience comprised mostly writers who read these types of magazines. Although small, that audience nonetheless was enthusiastic about her perfection of style and the short story form.



LITERARY ELEMENTS



Mood

The details that create the setting also establish a mood, or atmosphere, the emotion created in the reader by part or all of a literary work. In *Gatsby*, the details of the catered foods at the party—the two hundred oranges and masses of hams and turkeys—suggest a mood of opulence and extravagance.



Point of View

Is the vantage point, or perspective, from which a story is told. In first-person point of view, the story is told by someone who participates in or witnesses the action. In third-person point of view, the narrator usually stands outside the action and observes. In a limited point of view, the thoughts of only the narrator or a single character are revealed. In an omniscient point of view, the thoughts of all the characters are revealed.



Stream-of-Consciousness Writing

Refers to a narrative style that tries to capture a character's thought process in a realistic way. It's an interior monologue, but it's also more than that. Attempts to present the flow of feelings, thoughts, and impressions within the minds of characters. This is often done by incorporating sensory impressions, incomplete ideas, unusual syntax, and rough grammar.



Porter is one of several Southern Renaissance writers who experimented with point of view. As you read "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall," determine who is telling the story. Specifically, when does a narrator tell the story and when does Granny's consciousness take over the narration? Consider why knowing Granny's thoughts and feelings is key to understanding the story.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 505-514 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Point of View and Stream-of-Consciousness Writing** - In the opening sentence, who is telling the story? Where does the narration shift to reveal Granny's consciousness? Where else does the point of view shift in this way? Explain how moving from one perspective to another affects the telling of the story. What do you learn about Granny Weatherall from the stream-of-consciousness flow of her thoughts and feelings? Pick out specific details from the story. How is Porter's use of stream-of-consciousness writing effective in telling this story?



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