

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РФ  
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ  
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО  
ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
«ИРКУТСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ  
ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

*American  
Society and Culture  
through short stories*

*Учебно-методическое пособие*

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Учебно-методическое пособие, составленное на материале рассказов американских писателей, содержит описание системы ценностей, социальных реалий, менталитета американского общества; раскрывает условия реальной жизни представителей разных социальных слоев и эпох; знакомит с культурой и литературой страны изучаемого языка, расширяет кругозор. К каждому рассказу разработаны упражнения нескольких типов, направленные на развитие умений поискового чтения, ознакомительного и чтения с полным пониманием содержания; речевой, коммуникативной, лексико-грамматической, аналитической компетенций; критического мышления.

Пособие предназначено для студентов 2-го курса направления подготовки: «Зарубежное регионоведение», «Лингвистика», а также тех, кто имеет базовый уровень английского языка и интересуется американистикой.

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## «GOODBYE, MY BROTHER»

by John Cheever

### I. Read the story.

### II. Match the words with their definitions:

1. dock	a) Cruel, harsh and unfair government in which a person or small group of people have power over everyone else.
2. blast	b) Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen.
3. brine	c) A strong feeling of fear, worry or sadness that is caused by something unpleasant and unexpected.
4. frivolous	d) A student who is in his or her first year at university or college.
5. vast	e) An enclosed area of water in a port for the loading, unloading and repair of ships.
6. tyranny	f) Almost unbelievable, astounding, legendary.
7. dismay	g) A destructive wave of highly compressed air spreading outward from an explosion.
8. apprehension	h) Salty water, especially salty water that is used for preserving food.
9. fabulous	i) Very great extent or quantity, immense.
10. freshman	j) Not having any serious purpose or value.

### III. Give the synonyms of the words:

Sibling, fabulous, asperity, dissolute, sordid, cousinage, bellicose, kid, breadwinner.

**IV. Give the derivatives where possible:**

<b>Verb</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Adjective/ Participle</b>	<b>Adverb</b>
	relationship		
divorce			
	heaviness		
contribute			
		affectionate	
	marriage		
			preternaturally
		familiar	
impart			
		anxious	

**V. Illustrate the usage and meaning of the following word combinations:**

- a) to have least in common;
- b) to past the age;
- c) to keep smth going;
- d) to settle her family;
- e) to put our best foot forward;
- f) a distinguished family.

**VI. Speak about the characters of the story:**

- Describe the narrator of the story.
- Describe Lawrence.
- Describe their Mother.
- Describe Chaddy.
- Describe Diana.
- Describe the family.

**VII. Make a summary of the story.**

**VIII. Discuss the following questions:**

1. Why does Father, and then everyone, call Lawrence Tifty?
2. What is the conflict of the story? Is it possible to solve it? Offer the ways.
3. Who is guilty of the situation in the family?
4. Is Lawrence right to say goodbye to everybody and everything he does not like?
5. What word repeats in the story? What does the author try to show?
6. What language does the author use?
7. What would you do if you were Lawrence's brother? What can you do with a man like that?
8. Is the end of the story predictable?
9. Will Lawrence come back?
11. Which character do you like more? Why?
12. Are you impressed with the story?

**IX. Say if the statements are true or false. Provide evidence:**

1. Mother lives in Philadelphia, and Diana, since her divorce, has been living in Switzerland, but she comes back to the States in the summer to spend a month at Laud's Head.
2. Chaddy, who has done better than the rest of us, lives in New York, with Odette and their children.
3. Our youngest brother, Lawrence, who is a lawyer, got a job with a Cleveland firm after the war, and none of us saw him for three years.
4. We used to have a cottage there, and in the twenties our father bought the big house.
5. Mother lives in Philadelphia.
6. There was the costume dance at the flower club.

7. I picked up a root and, coming at his back—although I have never hit a man from the back before—I swung the root, heavy with sea water, behind me, and the momentum sped my arm and I gave Chaddy a blow on the head.
8. The character of the narrator is portrayed as gloomy and judgemental.
9. In 1938, Lawrence went to Washington to work as a government lawyer, saying goodbye to private enterprise, but after eight months in Washington he concluded that the Roosevelt administration was sentimental and he said goodbye to it.
10. Their mother is an alcoholic. If she does not discipline herself, she'll be in a hospital in a year or two.

#### **X. Replace Russian words by their English equivalents:**

When we are at Laud's Head, we play a lot of (нарды). At eight o'clock, after we have drunk our coffee, we usually (начинать игру). In a way, it is one of our (приятное времяпровождение). The lamps in the room are still (не включены), Anna can be seen in the dark garden, and in the sky above her head there are continents of (тень) and fire. Mother turns on the light and rattles the (игральная кость) as a signal. We usually play three games apiece, each with the others. We play (на деньги), and you can win or lose a hundred dollars on a game, but the (ставки) are usually much lower. I think that Lawrence used to play, I cannot remember, but he does not play anymore. He does not (играть в азартные игры). This is not because he is poor or because he has any principles about gambling but because he thinks the game is foolish and (пустая трата времени). He was ready enough, however, to waste his time watching the rest of us play. Night after night, when the game began, he pulled a chair up beside the (игральная доска), and watched the checkers and the dice. His expression was (презрительный), and yet he watched carefully. I wondered why he watched us night after night, and, through watching his face, I think that I may have found out.

Lawrence does not gamble, so he cannot understand the (волнение) of winning and losing money. He has forgotten how to play the game, I think, so that its complex

odds cannot interest him. His (наблюдения) were bound to include the facts that backgammon is an (бесполезный) game and a game of chance, and that the board, marked with points, was a symbol of our (бесполезность).

### **XI. Insert prepositions or adverbs.**

We are a family that has always been very close \_\_\_\_ spirit. Our father was drowned \_\_\_\_ a sailing accident when we were young, and our mother has always stressed the fact that our familial relationships have a kind \_\_\_\_ permanence that we will never meet \_\_\_\_ again. I don't think \_\_\_\_ the family much, but when I remember its members and the coast where they lived and the sea salt that I think is \_\_\_\_ our blood, I am happy to recall that I am a Pommeroy – that I have the nose, the coloring, and the promise \_\_\_\_ longevity—and that while we are not a distinguished family, we enjoy the illusion, when we are together, that the Pommeroyes are unique. I don't say any \_\_\_\_ this because I'm interested \_\_\_\_ family history or because this sense of uniqueness is deep or important \_\_\_\_ me but \_\_\_\_ advance the point that we are loyal \_\_\_\_ one another \_\_\_\_ spite \_\_\_\_ our differences, and that any rupture \_\_\_\_ this loyalty is a source \_\_\_\_ confusion and pain.

### **XII. Perform the dialog. Express the feelings of the characters:**

- “Isn't the beach fabulous, Tifty?” Mother asked. “Isn't it fabulous to be back? Will you have a Martini?”
- “I don't care,” Lawrence said. “Whiskey, gin – I don't care what I drink. Give me a little rum.”
- “We don't have any *rum*,” Mother said. It was the first note of asperity. She sensed the asperity and worked to repair it.
- “Would you like some Irish, Tifty dear?” she said.
- “Isn't Irish what you've always liked? There is some Irish on the sideboard. Why don't you get yourself some Irish?”
- “I don't care” Lawrence said.

**XIII. Comment on the last passage of the story.**

**XIV. Try to predict the behavior of the characters in several years.**

**XV. You work as a reporter. You are going to interview one of these people: the narrator of the story, Chaddy, Diana, Lawrence, their Mother, Odette, Helen, Ruth. Write 5 questions for the interview.**

**XVI. Compare two brothers: the narrator and Lawrence. Write your answer.**

## «THE LEES OF HAPPINESS»

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

### I. Read the story.

### II. Comment on the meaning of the following word combinations. Find them in the story. Make up your own sentences using them:

- wished life to be carefully skirted;
- in a head-on rush;
- live in one;
- bungalow people;
- Indian summer.

### III. Match the words with their definitions:

1. marriage	a) A person on the holiday taken by a newly married couple.
2. honeymooner	b) The charging of real (or personal) property by a debtor to a creditor as security for a debt (esp. one incurred by the purchase of the property), on the condition that it shall be returned on payment of the debt within a certain period.
3. jealousy	c) The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.
4. mortgage	d) The feeling of anger or bitterness that someone has when they think that another person is trying to take a lover or friend, or a possession, away from them.
5. spouse	e) A young child's one-piece outer garment.
6. divorce	f) The formal union of a man and a woman, typically recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife.
7. rompers	g) A husband or wife, considered in relation to their partner.
8. devotion	h) Love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause.