

Humanities I

Unit III The Humanities in New York (14)Chapter 13. The Arts in Modern New York: Part II
The Short Story and Social JusticeAffective Objectives:

- A. To become aware of the ways in which stereotypes lead to behavior that may hurt people.
- B. To begin valuing attitudes and behavior that enable men to relate to each other as fellow human beings rather than as stereotyped images.

Knowledge Objectives:

- A. To know that through short stories Dorothy Parker shows how people who think they are well meaning and "charitable" to their fellow man, may actually treat others inhumanly because they judge others on the basis of an attribute such as color rather than on the basis of individual worth.
- B. To know that Dorothy Parker objects to the hypocritical attitudes of the people who think they are well meaning.

Discussion Questions:

1. What point does Miss Parker make in the first story? How does she make this point?
2. What is the point Miss Parker makes in the second story? How does she do this?
3. What contrasts have been revealed to us in the manner in which each story has been told as well as in the content?
4. Is Miss Parker trying to point out a common fault in all of us? Is she asking us to change our attitudes?
5. Dorothy Parker does not argue for civil rights legislation or other specific objectives, what, in fact, is she persuading us to do?
6. Do you think stories such as these are an effective way to promote social justice? Do you think artists, such as Miss Parker, should try to promote social justice with their work? Discuss the consequences of the stand that you take.