

shooting elephant analysis

Shooting an Elephant: A Deep Dive into Orwell's Masterpiece of Colonial Critique

Introduction:

George Orwell's "Shooting an Elephant" is more than just a compelling short story; it's a potent allegory for the corrosive effects of imperialism and the insidious nature of power. This post delves deep into the narrative, exploring its multifaceted layers, from the psychological torment of the narrator to the broader implications of colonial control. We'll unpack the symbolism, analyze the narrative structure, and examine the enduring relevance of Orwell's chilling tale in our modern world. Prepare for a comprehensive exploration of "Shooting an Elephant," designed to provide you with a complete understanding of its complexities and enduring power. Get ready to dissect this literary masterpiece and unearth its hidden meanings.

1. The Power Dynamics of Colonialism:

Orwell masterfully portrays the power imbalance inherent in colonial relationships. The narrator, a young British police officer in Burma, is acutely aware of his position of authority, yet simultaneously feels trapped and alienated by it. The Burmese population views him with a mixture of resentment, fear, and contempt. He is not truly in control; his power is imposed, fragile, and ultimately dependent on the force he represents. This powerlessness ironically manifests in his compulsion to shoot the elephant, a decision driven not by necessity but by a desperate need to maintain the facade of authority in the eyes of the Burmese onlookers. The event itself becomes a symbolic representation of the violence and oppression inherent in colonial rule.

1. The Psychological Impact of Imperialism:

The story transcends a simple recounting of an event; it's a poignant exploration of the psychological toll of colonialism on both the colonizer and the colonized. The narrator's internal conflict is palpable. He struggles with his own moral compass, recognizing the senselessness of killing the elephant, yet feeling pressured to conform to the expectations placed upon him by his role and the watchful eyes of the Burmese crowd. This

inner turmoil highlights the dehumanizing effect of imperialism, not only on the subjugated people but also on the oppressor, who becomes trapped in a cycle of violence and self-deception.

1. Symbolism and Allegory in "Shooting an Elephant":

The elephant itself is a powerful symbol. It represents the brute force of colonial power, the seemingly unstoppable juggernaut of imperialism. Its immense size and strength mirror the overwhelming power of the British Empire. However, the elephant is also depicted as a peaceful creature, going about its business until disrupted by the presence and actions of the narrator. This juxtaposition highlights the absurdity and inherent cruelty of colonial interference. The act of shooting the elephant is therefore symbolic of the arbitrary and ultimately self-destructive nature of colonial violence. The rotting carcass left behind serves as a grim reminder of the waste and decay associated with imperialism.

1. Narrative Structure and Point of View:

Orwell employs a first-person narrative, allowing readers intimate access to the narrator's conflicted thoughts and emotions. This perspective enhances the story's impact by making the reader complicit in the narrator's internal struggle. The chronological structure, moving from the initial encounter with the elephant to the eventual shooting and its aftermath, builds suspense and allows for a gradual unfolding of the narrator's psychological disintegration. The seemingly simple recounting of events is layered with subtle irony and self-awareness, highlighting the narrator's growing disillusionment with the colonial system.

1. The Enduring Relevance of "Shooting an Elephant":

Though written in 1936, "Shooting an Elephant" remains strikingly relevant in the 21st century. The themes of power, oppression, and the psychological impact of violence continue to resonate deeply. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of blind obedience, the corrosive nature of unchecked power, and the importance of critical self-reflection. It stands as a potent reminder of the lasting consequences of imperialism and the need to confront the legacies of colonial violence. The story's exploration of societal pressures and the struggle between individual conscience and external expectations continues to strike a chord with readers today.

Detailed Outline: "Shooting an Elephant" Analysis

Name: A Comprehensive Analysis of George Orwell's "Shooting an Elephant"

Contents:

Introduction: Overview of the story and its significance.

Chapter 1: Colonial Power Dynamics: Examining the power imbalance and its impact on both the colonizer and the colonized.

Chapter 2: Psychological Impact of Imperialism: Analyzing the internal conflict and moral dilemmas faced by the narrator.

Chapter 3: Symbolism and Allegory: Unpacking the symbolic meaning of the elephant and other key elements in the story.

Chapter 4: Narrative Structure and Point of View: Exploring the effectiveness of the first-person narrative and chronological structure.

Chapter 5: Enduring Relevance: Discussing the story's contemporary significance and its continued relevance to modern issues.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key themes and offering final thoughts on the story's enduring legacy.

(Note: The following sections expand on the points in the outline above, creating the full article content. Due to length constraints, the expansions are summarized below. A full-length article would expand on these points with detailed examples from the text.)

(Chapter 1 Expansion): This section would provide detailed analysis of the specific power dynamics, drawing examples from the text, and analyzing the narrator's actions and interactions with the Burmese populace.

(Chapter 2 Expansion): This would deeply analyze the narrator's internal monologue, citing specific passages illustrating his internal conflict and moral struggle. The impact of the colonial environment on his psyche would be explored in detail.

(Chapter 3 Expansion): A thorough examination of the elephant as a symbol – its representation of colonial power, its peaceful nature contrasted with its violent demise, and the symbolic meaning of the rotting carcass. Other symbols within the story would also be discussed.

(Chapter 4 Expansion): This would discuss the narrative structure's impact on the reader's experience and how the first-person perspective contributes to the story's overall effect. The chronological unfolding of events and its contribution to the building tension would be explored.

(Chapter 5 Expansion): This section would connect the themes of the story to current events and issues such as police brutality, systemic oppression, and the psychological impact of violence and power imbalances in modern society.

Conclusion:

"Shooting an Elephant" remains a powerful and chilling exploration of the human condition under the oppressive weight of imperialism. Orwell's masterful use of symbolism, narrative structure, and first-person perspective creates a lasting impact, forcing readers to confront uncomfortable truths about power, morality, and the devastating consequences of unchecked authority. The story's enduring relevance ensures its place as a literary masterpiece that continues to spark dialogue and critical analysis.

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of "Shooting an Elephant"? The central theme is the destructive nature of imperialism and its impact on both the colonizer and the colonized, highlighting the psychological and moral dilemmas it creates.
1. What is the symbolism of the elephant? The elephant symbolizes the immense, seemingly unstoppable power of the British Empire, but also its inherent cruelty and senselessness.
1. Why does the narrator shoot the elephant? He shoots the elephant not out of necessity, but to maintain the facade of authority and avoid losing face with the Burmese crowd.
1. What is the significance of the first-person narrative? The first-person perspective provides intimate access to the narrator's conflicted thoughts and emotions, making the reader complicit in his internal struggle.
1. What is the setting of the story? The story is set in Burma (now Myanmar) during the British colonial period.
1. How does the story relate to modern issues? The themes of power, oppression, and the psychological impact of violence resonate strongly with contemporary issues such as police brutality and systemic

inequality.

1. What is the tone of the story? The tone is primarily reflective and ironic, conveying a sense of disillusionment and moral ambiguity.

1. What is the climax of the story? The climax is the act of shooting the elephant itself.

1. What is the overall message of the story? The story cautions against blind obedience, unchecked power, and the importance of critical self-reflection.

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shooting elephant analysis: *Burmese Days* George Orwell, 2022-09-28 *Burmese Days* is George Orwell's first novel, originally published in 1934. Set in British Burma during the waning days of the British empire, when Burma was ruled from Delhi as part of British India, the novel serves as a portrait of the dark side of the British Raj. At the center of the novel is John Flory, trapped within a bigger system that is undermining the better side of human nature. The novel deals with indigenous corruption and imperial bigotry in a society where natives peoples were viewed as interesting, but ultimately inferior. Includes a bibliography and brief bio of the author.

shooting elephant analysis: *Shooting an Elephant* of George Orwell - Short Story Or Essay on the Essence of Colonialism? Swantje We, 2011-04 Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,5, University of Vechta (Institut für Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften), language: English, abstract: This paper deals with Orwell's text 'Shooting an Elephant'. I use the term text deliberately since my topic says George Orwell: 'Shooting an Elephant' - Short Story or Essay on the Essence of Colonialism. The question of genre has been debated for decades and there have been several quarrels about allocating it to a certain genre. Most experts, however, call the text an essay but there are also those who insist on the text belonging to the group of the short stories. In my paper I will work out features of both genres and at the end of my study I will sum up the findings and draw a conclusion. First, I will give a short definition of the terms 'Short Story' and 'Essay'. This is to show the characteristics of the two genres that I will pick up again in the course of this paper. After a brief summary I will start the analysis of the text working out topics like parallels to Orwell's life, the meaning of the elephant or the construction of the text. In the final part I will sum up my results and draw a conclusion.

shooting elephant analysis: *A Hanging* George Orwell, 2023-09-17 George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature. While *1984* and *Animal Farm* are amongst the most popular classic novels of all time, this new series of his essays seeks to bring his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. *A Hanging*, the ninth in the Orwell's Essays series, tells the story of the execution of an unnamed convict in Burma. With the veracity of the story unknown, but thought to be loosely based on Orwell's own experiences in Burma, the haunting tale leaves the reader contemplating the heavy topic of colonialism, and the right of one to take the life of another.

shooting elephant analysis: *Shooting an Elephant* George Orwell, 2022-02-14 George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature - his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While *1984* and *Animal Farm* are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. *Shooting an Elephant*, the fifth in the Orwell's Essays series, tells the story of a police officer in Burma who is called upon to shoot an aggressive elephant. Thought to be loosely based on Orwell's own experiences in Burma, the tightly written essay weaves together fact and fiction indistinguishably, and leaves the reader contemplating the heavy topic of colonialism, with the words 'when the white man turns tyrant it is his own freedom that he destroys' echoing from the page. 'A remarkable piece.' (Jeremy Paxman) 'A writer who can - and must - be rediscovered with every age.' (Irish Times)

shooting elephant analysis: *Deacon King Kong* (*Oprah's Book Club*) James McBride,

2020-03-03 Winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Fiction Winner of the Gotham Book Prize One of Barack Obama's Favorite Books of the Year Oprah's Book Club Pick Named one of the Top Ten Books of the Year by the New York Times, Entertainment Weekly and TIME Magazine A Washington Post Notable Novel From the author of *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*, and the bestselling modern classic *The Color of Water*, comes one of the most celebrated novels of the year. In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and, in front of everybody, shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range. The reasons for this desperate burst of violence and the consequences that spring from it lie at the heart of Deacon King Kong, James McBride's funny, moving novel and his first since his National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*. In *Deacon King Kong*, McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself. As the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters—caught in the tumultuous swirl of 1960s New York—overlap in unexpected ways. When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion. Bringing to these pages both his masterly storytelling skills and his abiding faith in humanity, James McBride has written a novel every bit as involving as *The Good Lord Bird* and as emotionally honest as *The Color of Water*. Told with insight and wit, *Deacon King Kong* demonstrates that love and faith live in all of us.

shooting elephant analysis: *The Elephant* Slawomir Mrozek, 2010-05-06 *The Elephant* (1957) is Slawomir Mrozek's award-winning collection of hilarious and unnerving short stories, satirising life in Poland under a totalitarian regime. The family of a wealthy lawyer keep a 'tamed progressive' as a pet; a zoo saves money for the workers by fashioning their elephant from rubber; a swan is dismissed from the municipal park for public drunkenness; and under the Writers' Association, literary critics are banished to the salt mines. In these tales of bureaucrats, officials and artists, Mrozek conjures perfectly a life of imagined crimes and absurd authority.

shooting elephant analysis: *The Pedestrian* Ray Bradbury, 1951

shooting elephant analysis: Film Language Christian Metz, 1991 A pioneer in the field, Christian Metz applies insights of structural linguistics to the language of film. The semiology of film . . . can be held to date from the publication in 1964 of the famous essay by Christian Metz, 'Le cinéma: langue ou langage?'—Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, *Times Literary Supplement* Modern film theory begins with Metz.—Constance Penley, coeditor of *Camera Obscura* Any consideration of semiology in relation to the particular field signifying practice of film passes inevitably through a reference to the work of Christian Metz. . . . The first book to be written in this field, [Film Language] is important not merely because of this primacy but also because of the issues it raises . . . issues that have become crucial to the contemporary argument.—Stephen Heath, *Screen*

shooting elephant analysis: Elephant Run Roland Smith, 2009-12 When 14-year-old Nick is sent to his father in Burma to escape the 1941 bombings in London, he finds himself in even more danger as Japanese soldiers arrive and take control of the plantation house.

shooting elephant analysis: *The Road to Wigan Pier* George Orwell, 2024-04-26 George Orwell provides a vivid and unflinching portrayal of working-class life in Northern England during the 1930s. Through his own experiences and meticulous investigative reporting, Orwell exposes the harsh living conditions, poverty, and social injustices faced by coal miners and other industrial workers in the region. He documents their struggles with unemployment, poor housing, and inadequate healthcare, as well as the pervasive sense of hopelessness and despair that permeates their lives. In the second half of *The Road to Wigan Pier* Orwell delves into the complexities of political ideology, as he grapples with the shortcomings of both socialism and capitalism in addressing the needs of the working class. GEORGE ORWELL was born in India in 1903 and passed

away in London in 1950. As a journalist, critic, and author, he was a sharp commentator on his era and its political conditions and consequences.

shooting elephant analysis: Long Shot Craig Hodges, Rory Fanning, 2017-01-09 In this memoir, the Chicago Bulls basketball star details his life on the court as an athlete and off the court as an activist. As a member of the 1992 world-champion Chicago Bulls, a dashiki-clad Hodges delivered a handwritten letter to President George H. W. Bush demanding that he do more to address racism and economic inequality. Hodges was also a vocal union activist, initiated a boycott against Nike, and spoke out forcefully against police brutality in the wake of the Rodney King beating. But his outspokenness cost him dearly. In the prime of his career, after ten NBA seasons, Hodges was blackballed from the NBA for using his platform as a professional athlete to stand up for justice. In this powerful, passionate, and captivating memoir, Hodges shares the stories—including encounters with Nelson Mandela, Coretta Scott King, Jim Brown, R. Kelly, Michael Jordan, and others—from his lifelong fight for equality for Black Americans. Praise for Long Shot “A skillfully told, affecting memoir of sports and social activism.” —Kirkus Reviews “Hodges has told his compelling life story with fiery passion, looping around a cast of characters stretching from Jordan, Magic Johnson and Phil Jackson back to Muhammad Ali, Arthur Ashe and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, before returning to the present.” —Guardian “Craig Hodges is someone I looked up to as a child & now as an adult . . . I read Long Shot in like two hours, I couldn’t stop turning pages. There are so many hooks in it.” —Jesse Williams, actor, producer, director, activist “A beautifully written, brutally honest book. If you loved the Michael Jordan-era Chicago Bulls, if you love black history, or if you are fascinated by the politics of sports, I highly recommend this book. Simply put: Craig Hodges’ life is incredible and Long Shot is invaluable.” —AETHLON: The Journal of Sport Literature

shooting elephant analysis: The Tusk That Did the Damage Tania James, 2015-02-25 When a young elephant is brutally orphaned by poachers, it is only a matter of time before he begins terrorising the countryside, earning his malevolent name from the humans he kills and then tenderly buries with leaves. Manu, the studious son of a rice farmer, loses his cousin to the Gravedigger and is drawn into the alluring world of ivory hunting. Emma is working on a documentary set in a Kerala wildlife park with her best friend. Her work leads her to witness the porous boundary between conservation and corruption and she finds herself caught up in her own betrayal. As the novel hurtles toward its tragic climax, these three storylines fuse into a wrenching meditation on love and revenge, fact and myth, duty and sacrifice. In a feat of audacious imagination and arrestingly beautiful prose, The Tusk That Did the Damage tells an original and heart-breaking story about how we treat nature, and each other.

shooting elephant analysis: The Elephant Whisperer ANTHONY. LAWRENCE, Graham Spence, 2017-07-13 When South African conservationist Lawrence Anthony was asked to accept a herd of 'rogue' elephants on his Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand, his common sense told him to refuse. But he was the herd's last chance of survival - dangerous and unpredictable, they would be killed if Anthony wouldn't take them in. As Anthony risked his life to create a bond with the troubled elephants and persuade them to stay on his reserve, he came to realize what a special family they were, from the wise matriarch Nana, who guided the herd, to her warrior sister Frankie, always ready to see off any threat, and their children who fought so hard to survive. With unforgettable characters and exotic wildlife, this is an enthralling book that will appeal to animal lovers and adventurous souls everywhere.

shooting elephant analysis: Perspective Criticism Gary Yamasaki, 2013-02-28 Perspective Criticism sets out a new and illuminating biblical methodology designed to help the reader of biblical narratives in which there is a character engaged in action but no explicit indication from the storyteller on how the action is to be evaluated. Gary Yamasaki argues that in these cases we are receiving cryptic guidance from the author through the narrative technique of point-of-view. In such cases the methodology of Perspective Criticism may be applied to reveal this abstruse guidance. Gary Yamasaki provides a series of frames of analysis within the theory of Perspective Criticism which may be applied to biblical stories: the spatial, psychological, informational, temporal,

phraseological, and ideological perspectives. Because the majority of the point-of-view devices found in biblical narratives are also used in cinematic storytelling, the book includes accessible analyses of film scenes, providing pop-culture illustrations of the workings of the point-of-view perspective. Gary Yamasaki concludes by applying his method to two case studies: the New Testament story of Gamaliel, and the Old Testament story of Gideon. In his work Yamasaki creates a valuable foundation for the deeper understanding of biblical narrative, a gift to anyone who has struggled with the concealed messages that should be divined in biblical point-of-view narratives.

shooting elephant analysis: The Valley of the Spiders (Cryptofiction Classics - Weird Tales of Strange Creatures) H. G. Wells, 2015-02-17 This early work by H. G. Wells was originally published in 1903 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography as part of our Cryptofiction Classics series. 'The Valley of the Spiders' is a short story about a group of men who encounter an unstoppable swarm of arachnids. Herbert George Wells was born in Bromley, England in 1866. He apprenticed as a draper before becoming a pupil-teacher at Midhurst Grammar School in West Sussex. Some years later, Wells won a scholarship to the School of Science in London, where he developed a strong interest in biology and evolution, founding and editing the Science Schools Journal. However, he left before graduating to return to teaching, and began to focus increasingly on writing. It was in 1895 that Wells seriously established himself as a writer, with the publication of the now iconic novel, The Time Machine. Wells followed The Time Machine with the equally well-received War of the Worlds (1898), which proved highly popular in the USA. The Cryptofiction Classics series contains a collection of wonderful stories from some of the greatest authors in the genre, including Ambrose Bierce, Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Jack London. From its roots in cryptozoology, this genre features bizarre, fantastical, and often terrifying tales of mythical and legendary creatures. Whether it be giant spiders, werewolves, lake monsters, or dinosaurs, the Cryptofiction Classics series offers a fantastic introduction to the world of weird creatures in fiction.

shooting elephant analysis: The Giver Lois Lowry, 2014 The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. This movie tie-in edition features cover art from the movie and exclusive Q&A with members of the cast, including Taylor Swift, Brenton Thwaites and Cameron Monaghan.

shooting elephant analysis: Why I Write George Orwell, 2021-01-01 George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature – his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While 1984 and Animal Farm are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. In Why I Write, the first in the Orwell's Essays series, Orwell describes his journey to becoming a writer, and his movement from writing poems to short stories to the essays, fiction and non-fiction we remember him for. He also discusses what he sees as the 'four great motives for writing' – 'sheer egoism', 'aesthetic enthusiasm', 'historical impulse' and 'political purpose' – and considers the importance of keeping these in balance. Why I Write is a unique opportunity to look into Orwell's mind, and it grants the reader an entirely different vantage point from which to consider the rest of the great writer's oeuvre. 'A writer who can – and must – be rediscovered with every age.' — Irish Times

shooting elephant analysis: Elephant's Graveyard George Brant, 2010 Elephant's Graveyard is the unfortunately true story of Mary, an elephant who went berserk during a parade through the middle of a small town in Tennessee in 1916. The townspeople demanded justice for her actions, which led to a very unfortunate set of circumstances. The play combines historical fact and legend, exploring the deep-seated American craving for spectacle, violence and revenge.--George Brant's interview answer to Adam Szymkowicz in I Interview Playwrights Part 48: George Brant by Adam

Szymkowicz.

shooting elephant analysis: In Defence of English Cooking George Orwell, 2005 In May 2005 Penguin will publish 70 unique titles to celebrate the company's 70th birthday. The titles in the Pocket Penguins series are emblematic of the renowned breadth of quality of the Penguin list and will hark back to Penguin founder Allen Lane's vision of good books for all'. political thinkers of the twentieth century, he is also the author of the bestselling Penguin title of all time: *Animal Farm* first published in Penguin in 1951. These heartfelt essays demonstrate Orwell's wide-ranging appeal, and range from political manifesto to affectionate consideration of what being English truly means.

shooting elephant analysis: *The Last Giants* Levison Wood, 2020-11-03 From the award-winning explorer, "an entertaining summary of what we know about the elephant, and a call to change our behavior to ensure its survival" (Daily Mail). *The Last Giants* satisfies British explorer Levison Wood's lifelong desire to learn more about the majestic African elephant. These giants trek through some of Africa's most magnificent landscapes as they go in search of life-giving waters and pastures. El Nino's droughts and an insatiable ivory trade have cut African elephant numbers by a third in the last decade alone, and if elephants disappear entirely, Africa's entire ecosystem could collapse. But Botswana has become a safe haven, where one-sixth of the world's elephants now reside. Each year their numbers grow and an incredible migration takes place, which Wood witnesses and records. He teams up with local trackers to gain insight into how this iconic species survives, camps out in the wild, meets the people and tribes living on the migration's path, and joins the park rangers whose job it is to protect these land goliaths, equipped with his "good eye for detail and better ear for dialogue" (The Wall Street Journal). "Adventurer Wood followed elephants on a 650-mile migration across Botswana for a British television program. This fascinating companion volume to that series examines the past, present, and future of the African elephant." —Library Journal (starred review) "A smart, inviting portrait of elephants from a keen-eyed observer." —Kirkus Reviews "A rewarding look at the habits and habitats of the African elephant . . . Comprehensively yet accessibly conveying Wood's lifelong fascination with African elephants, his discussion will appeal to anyone keen on learning more about them." —Publishers Weekly

shooting elephant analysis: *The Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 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.

shooting elephant analysis: *Only the Animals* Ceridwen Dovey, 2015-02-05 Perhaps only the animals can tell us what it is to be human. The souls of ten animals caught up in human conflicts over the last century tell their astonishing stories of life and death. In a trench on the Western Front a cat recalls her owner Colette's theatrical antics in Paris. In Nazi Germany a dog seeks enlightenment. A Russian tortoise once owned by the Tolstoys drifts in space during the Cold War. In the siege of Sarajevo a bear starving to death tells a fairytale. And a dolphin sent to Iraq by the US Navy writes a letter to Sylvia Plath. Exquisitely written, playful and poignant, *Only the Animals* is a remarkable literary achievement by this bright young writer. An animal's-eye view of humans at our brutal, violent worst and our creative, imaginative best, it asks us to find our way back to empathy not only for animals, but for other people, and to believe again in the redemptive power of reading and writing fiction.

shooting elephant analysis: *Marionettes, Inc* Ray Bradbury, 2009 In five stories (one of them

original to this collection, plus a rare, previously unpublished screen treatment) Bradbury explores the concept of Robotics and examines its impact on the day-to-day lives of ordinary people.

shooting elephant analysis: The Elephant Vanishes Haruki Murakami, 2010-08-11 In the tales that make up *The Elephant Vanishes*, the imaginative genius that has made Haruki Murakami an international superstar is on full display. In these stories, a man sees his favorite elephant vanish into thin air; a newlywed couple suffers attacks of hunger that drive them to hold up a McDonald's in the middle of the night; and a young woman discovers that she has become irresistible to a little green monster who burrows up through her backyard. By turns haunting and hilarious, in *The Elephant Vanishes* Murakami crosses the border between separate realities—and comes back bearing remarkable treasures. Includes the story *Barn Burning*, which is the basis for the major motion picture *Burning*.

shooting elephant analysis: *Zero Hour* Ray Bradbury, 2021-08-05 In this short story first published by Ray Bradbury in the 1951 *Illustrated Man* collection, the game of Invasion has been sweeping the country. Children all across the nation pretend to have been enlisted by alien invaders, their job to overthrow their parents, and help their newfound friends take over the Earth. To Mrs. Morris, it's harmless fun - but to her daughter Mink, it's far from just a game.

shooting elephant analysis: *Big Game* Stuart Gibbs, 2015-10-13 Teddy Fitzroy returns as FunJungle's resident zoo sleuth when a rhinoceros is at risk in *Big Game*, a follow-up to *Belly Up* and *Poached*—which Kirkus Reviews called a “thrill-ride of a mystery.” When someone takes aim at Rhonda Rhino, FunJungle's pregnant (and endangered) Asian greater one-horned rhinoceros, the zoo steps up security measures in order to protect this rare animal and her baby. But the extra security isn't enough—someone is still getting too close for comfort. Teddy and company start to suspect that whoever is after Rhonda is really after her horn, which is worth a lot of money on the black market. For the first time ever, the head of the zoo enlists Teddy for help—for once, he doesn't have to sneak around in order to investigate—and the results are even more wacky, and even more dangerous, than ever before.

shooting elephant analysis: *Books v. Cigarettes* George Orwell, 2014-10-30 Beginning with a dilemma about whether he spends more money on reading or smoking, George Orwell's entertaining and uncompromising essays go on to explore everything from the perils of second-hand bookshops to the dubious profession of being a critic, from freedom of the press to what patriotism really means. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

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