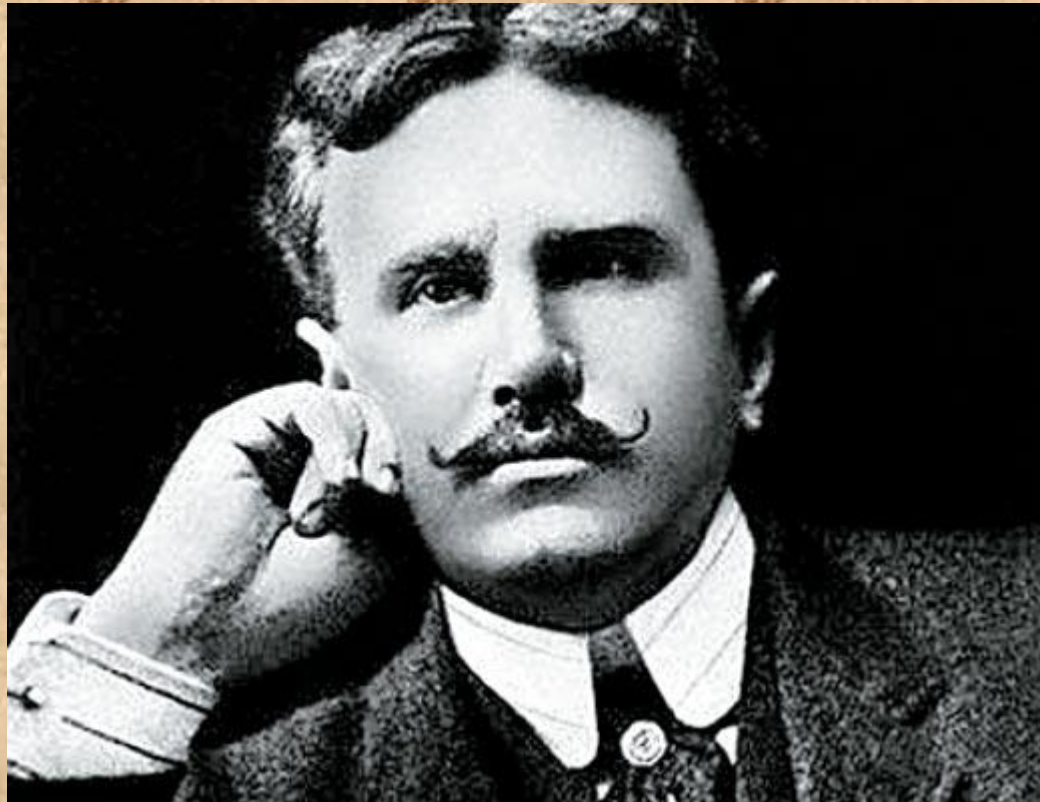




O. Henry

William Sydney
Porter

- **William Sydney Porter** (September 11, 1862 – June 5, 1910), known by his pen name **O. Henry**, was an American writer. O. Henry's short stories are known for their wit, wordplay, warm characterization, and [surprise endings](#).



Biography

- **Early life:**

- William's parents had married on April 20, 1858. When William was three, his mother died from [tuberculosis](#), and he and his father moved into the home of his paternal grandmother



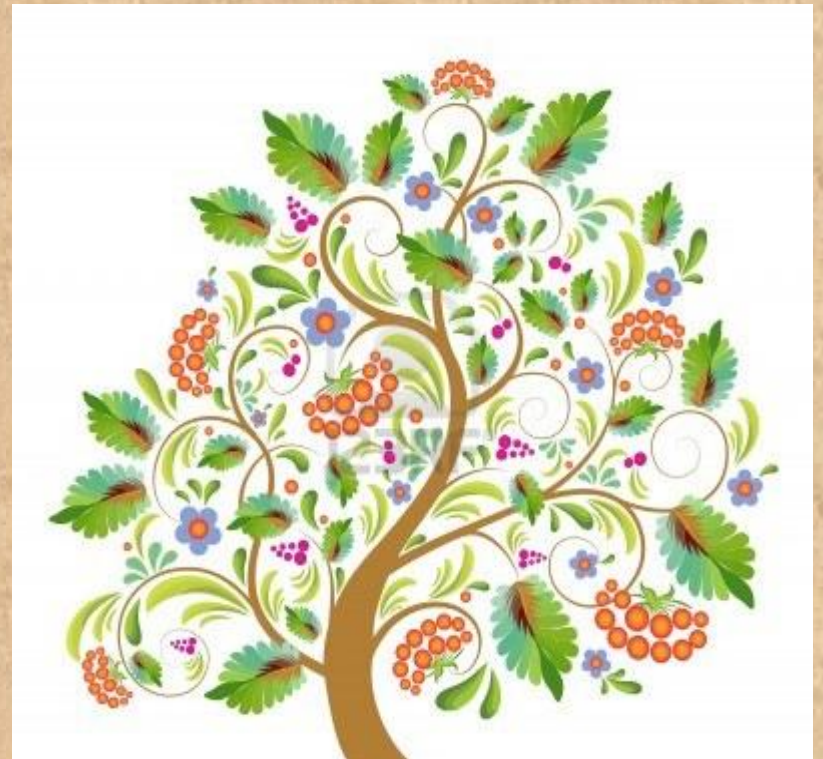
Early life:

- As a child, Porter was always reading, everything from classics to [dime novels](#); his favorite works were [Lane](#)'s translation of [One Thousand and One Nights](#), and [Burton](#)'s [Anatomy of Melancholy](#).



- **Early life:**

Porter graduated from his aunt Evelina Maria Porter's elementary school in 1876. He then enrolled at the Lindsey Street High School. His aunt continued to tutor him until he was fifteen. In 1879, he started working in his uncle's [drugstore](#) and in 1881, at the age of nineteen, he was licensed as a [pharmacist](#). At the drugstore, he also showed off his natural artistic talents by sketching the townsfolk.



Later life

- Porter's most prolific writing period started in 1902, when he moved to New York City to be near his publishers. While there, he wrote 381 short stories. He wrote a story a week for over a year for the *New York World Sunday Magazine*. His wit, characterization, and plot twists were adored by his readers, but often panned by critics. Porter married again in 1907, to childhood sweetheart Sarah (Sallie) Lindsey Coleman, whom he met again after revisiting his native state of North Carolina.



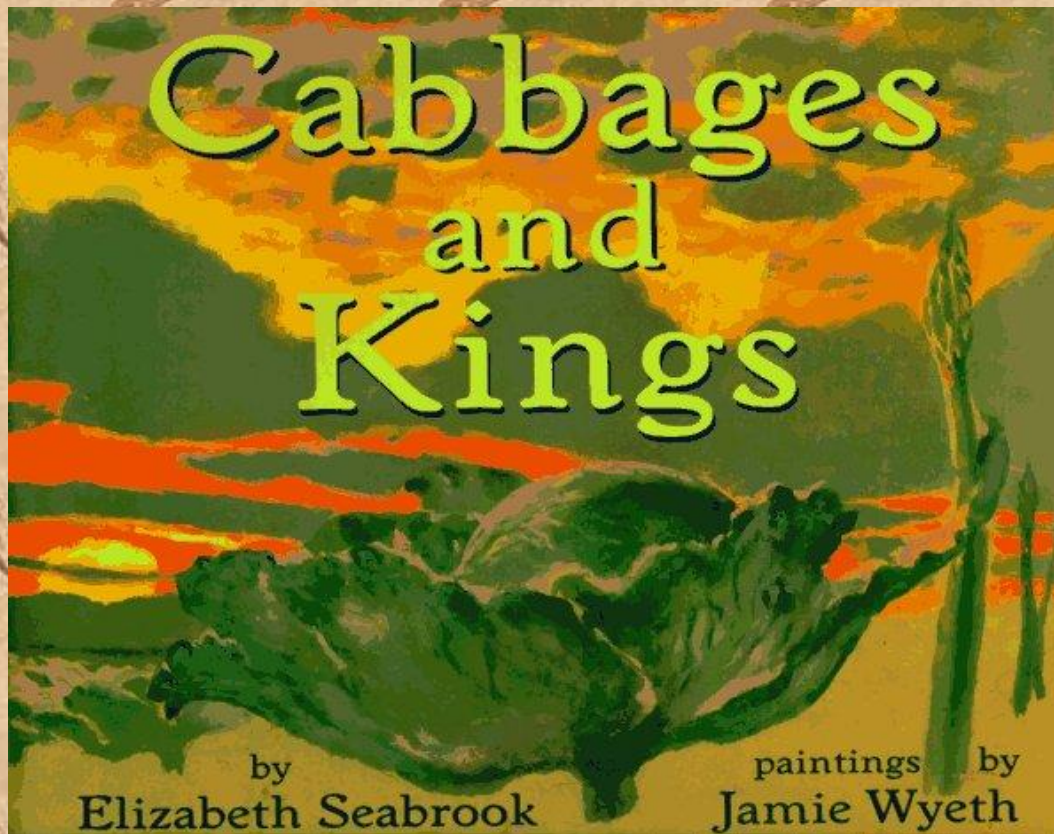
Porter was a heavy drinker, and his health deteriorated markedly in 1908, which affected his writing. In 1909, Sarah left him, and he died on June 5, 1910, of [cirrhosis of the liver](#), complications of [diabetes](#), and an [enlarged heart](#). After funeral services in New York City, he was buried in the [Riverside Cemetery](#) in [Asheville, North Carolina](#). His daughter, Margaret Worth Porter, attended Princeton University and had a short writing career from 1913 to 1916. She married the cartoonist Oscar Cesare of New York in 1916; they were divorced four years later. She died of tuberculosis in 1927 and is buried next to her father.



Works

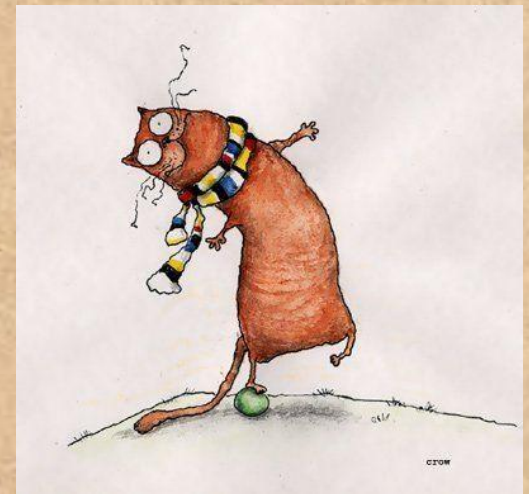
- **Cabbages and Kings (1904):**

A series of stories which each explore some individual aspect of life in a paralytically sleepy Central American town while each advancing some aspect of the larger plot and relating back one to another in a complex structure which slowly explicates its own background even as it painstakingly erects a town which is one of the most detailed literary creations of the period. In this book, O. Henry coined the term "banana republic".



Roads of Destiny (1909)

- A collection of 22 short stories:
- Roads of Destiny, The Guardian of the Accolade, The Discounters of Money, The Enchanted Profile, "Next to Reading Matter", Art and the Bronco, Phœbe, A Double-dyed Deceiver, The Passing of Black Eagle, A Retrieved Reformation, Cherchez la Femme, Friends in San Rosario, The Fourth in Salvador, The Emancipation of Billy, The Enchanted Kiss, A Departmental Case, The Renaissance at Charleroi, On Behalf of the Management, Whistling Dick's Christmas Stocking, The Halberdier of the Little Rheinschloss, Two Renegades & The Lonesome Road
- Published in: 1909
- Copyright: Public Domain (This work is available for countries where copyright is Life+70 and in the USA.)



Whirligigs (1910)

- A collection of 24 short stories: The World and the Door; The Theory and the Hound; The Hypotheses of Failure; Calloway's Code; A Matter of Mean Elevation; Girl; Sociology in Serge and Straw; The Ransom of Red Chief; The Marry Month of May; A Technical Error; Suite Homes and Their Romance; The Whirligig of Life; A Sacrifice Hit; The Roads We Take; A Blackjack Bargainer; The Song and the Sergeant; One Dollar's Worth; A Newspaper Story; Tommy's Burglar; A Chaparral Christmas Gift; A Little Local Colour; Georgia's Ruling; Blind Man's Holiday; and Madame Bo Peep of the Ranches.
- Published in: 1910
- Copyright: Public Domain (This work is available for countries where copyright is Life+70 and in the USA.)



Thank you for your attention!!!

