



# *Love is a Fallacy*

---- *by Max Shulman*

LOGO

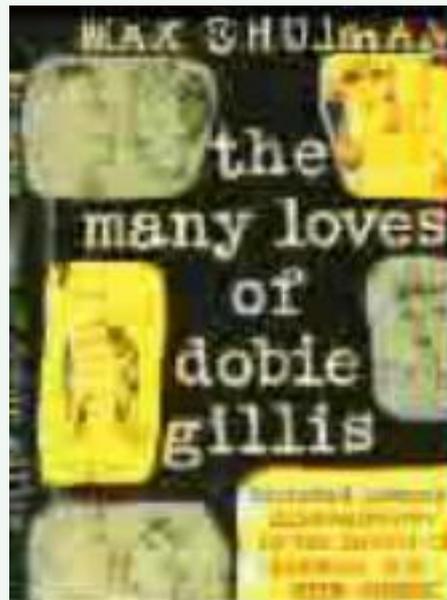
# MAX SHULMAN BAREFOOT BOY WITH CHEEK

(1943)

the celebrated laugh-sex riot  
about college life  
by the author of  
**RALLY ROUND  
THE FLAG, BOYS!**



(1951)

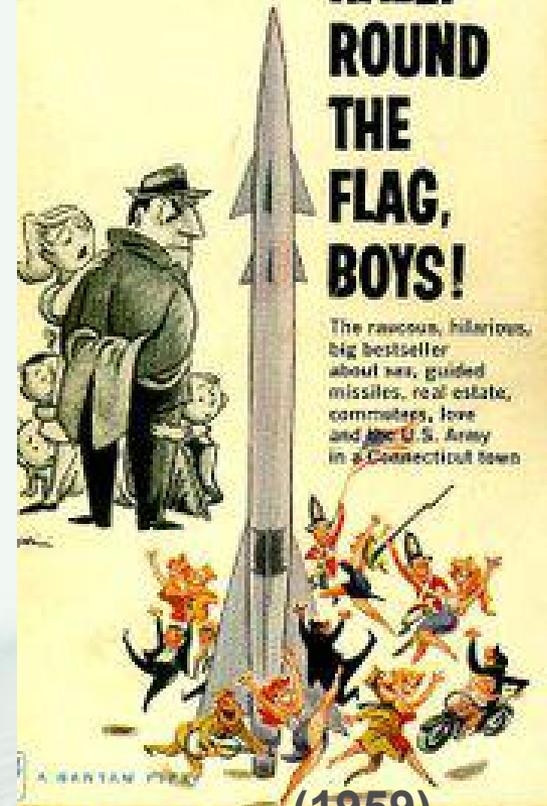


四川外国语学院成都学院  
Chengdu Institute Sichuan International Studies University

U.S. \$5.00

# MAX SHULMAN RALLY ROUND THE FLAG, BOYS!

The raucous, hilarious,  
big bestseller  
about sex, guided  
missiles, real estate,  
commuters, love  
and the U.S. Army  
in a Connecticut town



(1959)

# LOVE ?

- ◆ Love is an easy game to play.
- ◆ Love is blue, like the "blue" in "blue movies".
- ◆ Love is blind.
- ◆ Love is a kind of emotion that makes you feel up and down.
- ◆ Love is a contradiction. Once you get used to each other, it becomes life, no more love existing.
- ◆ Love is in giving rather than in taking.

# Argument

- ◆ deductive
- ◆ inductive
- ◆ 演绎法
- ◆ 归纳法

- ◆ 某农妇养小鸡**10**只，公母各半，她预备母鸡养大生蛋，公鸡则养至**100**天后陆续杀以佐餐。天天早晨她拿米喂鸡。到**100**天的早晨，一只公鸡正这样想到：第一天早晨有米吃，第二天早晨有米吃，……第**99**天早晨有米吃，所以今天，是第**100**天，一定有米吃……但是农妇把这只鸡杀了……
- ◆ 人总是要死的，但死的意义有不同。中国古时候有个文学家叫做司马迁的说过：“人固有一死，或重于泰山，或轻于鸿毛。”为人民利益而死，就比泰山还重；替法西斯卖力，替剥削人民和压迫人民的人去死，就比鸿毛还轻。张思德同志是为人民利益而死的，他的死是比泰山还要重的。

——《为人民服务》毛泽东



# Fallacy

- ◆ **Fallacies are defects in an argument which cause an argument to be invalid or weak.**
- ◆ **Everyone wants to get married someday.**
- ◆ **“The last five times that I’ve worn my white pants, something depressing has happened. I’m not going to wear those pants again!”**

# Love is a Fallacy

- ◆ Love is an **error**, a **deception** and an **emotion** that does not follow the principles of logic.
- ◆ Do you find any deeper implication in the title?

# Task for you

- ◆ **Figure out the structure of the text by yourself. (How many parts can the text be divided into?)**
- ◆ **Find out all the fallacies and their relevant meanings in the text.**

# Writing type

## ◆ Narration

**Protagonist (hero)----- Dobie Gillis**

**Antagonist----- Petey Burch**

**Polly Espy**



◆ **Para 1~3**

**The author's note**

◆ **Para 4~59**

**Deal between Dobbie and Petey**

◆ **Para 60~124**

**The teaching of the fallacies**

◆ **Para 125~154**

**The final date**

# The author's notes

- ◆ The author's idea about the story.
- ◆ The author's idea about the purpose of the story.



- ◆ Charles Lamb, as merry and enterprising a fellow as you will meet in a month of Sundays, unfettered the informal essay with his memorable *Old China and Dream's Children*.

挣脱了计划规则的束缚，这个城市开始飞速发展。

**Unfettered by the usual planning regulations, the new city developed quickly.**

Charles Lamb is a very merry and enterprising person. You'll meet such a person only after a long time. He wrote the essays, *Old China and Dream's Children*, which set free the informal essay.



◆ **Could Carlyle do more? Could Ruskin?**  
**rhetorical question**

**My writing is even more informal. I can do  
better than them.**



- ◆ Logic is **not at all** a dry, learned branch of learning. It is like a **living human being**, full of beauty, passion and painful emotional shocks.

◆ 《感悟高中》的题记：

“那是心灵深处的一股清泉，流不尽，吐不完，一直奔流到永远  
永远，去浇灌我人生旅途中的每一草，每一木。。。。。”

◆ **1.** introduce why the work is written



◆ 以《无言之书》为题，正文前的题记是：

“书如父，父如书，幼稚的我一直想用稚嫩的手为父爱这本沉甸甸的书作出更加精辟的诠释，直至读到最后，看见书的最后一页上赫然写着‘父爱无言’几个醒目的大字……”

2. point out the idea of the writing



- ◆ 《感谢父亲》的题记：
- ◆ “年幼时，父亲是一道港湾；年轻时父亲是一尊偶像；中年时，父亲是一段岁月；年暮时父亲是一部史书。”
- ◆ **3. express feelings**

- ◆ 以《真水无香》为题写了一段题记：
- ◆ “与人交往，应有真诚，而真诚的意义，便是平淡，便是无香……”
- ◆ 4. explanatory



- ◆ **Introduction**
- ◆ **Main idea illustration**
- ◆ **Expression on feelings**
- ◆ **Explanation on the topic**

How does "I" introduce myself?



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◆ **Cool, logical, keen, calculating, perspicacious, acute and astute powerful, precise, penetrating**



*all the beautiful words of praise*

**simile, hyperbole**

→ **boasting**



# How does "I" introduce Petey?

◆ **dumb as an ox, nice but nothing upstairs, emotional, unstable, impressionable, a faddist, mindlessness.**

**elliptical sentence**

→ **emphasis**



◆ **Fads, I submit, are the very negation of reason.**

**Fads, in my opinion, show a complete lack of the ability to think.**



- ◆ To be **swept up in** every new craze that comes along, to **surrender** yourself to idiocy just because everybody else is doing it—this, to me, is the **acme** of mindlessness. Not, however, to Petey.
- ◆ 见到一种新鲜的东西就跟着学，以为别人都在那么干，自己也就卷进去傻干——这在我看来，简直愚蠢至极，但皮蒂却不以为然。



- ◆ Charleston: a lively dance characterized by a twisting of body and step.



◆ **Where have you been?**

**implication: You are so ignorant and don't know what everybody knows.**



## ◆ slipped into high gear

- If you say that a person, system, or process is in a particular gear, you are talking about the speed, energy, or efficiency with which they are working or functioning.

**My brain began to work at high speed/efficiency.**

**She knew how to change gear in order to achieve the right result.**

她知道该如何调整工作效率以达到最佳效果。

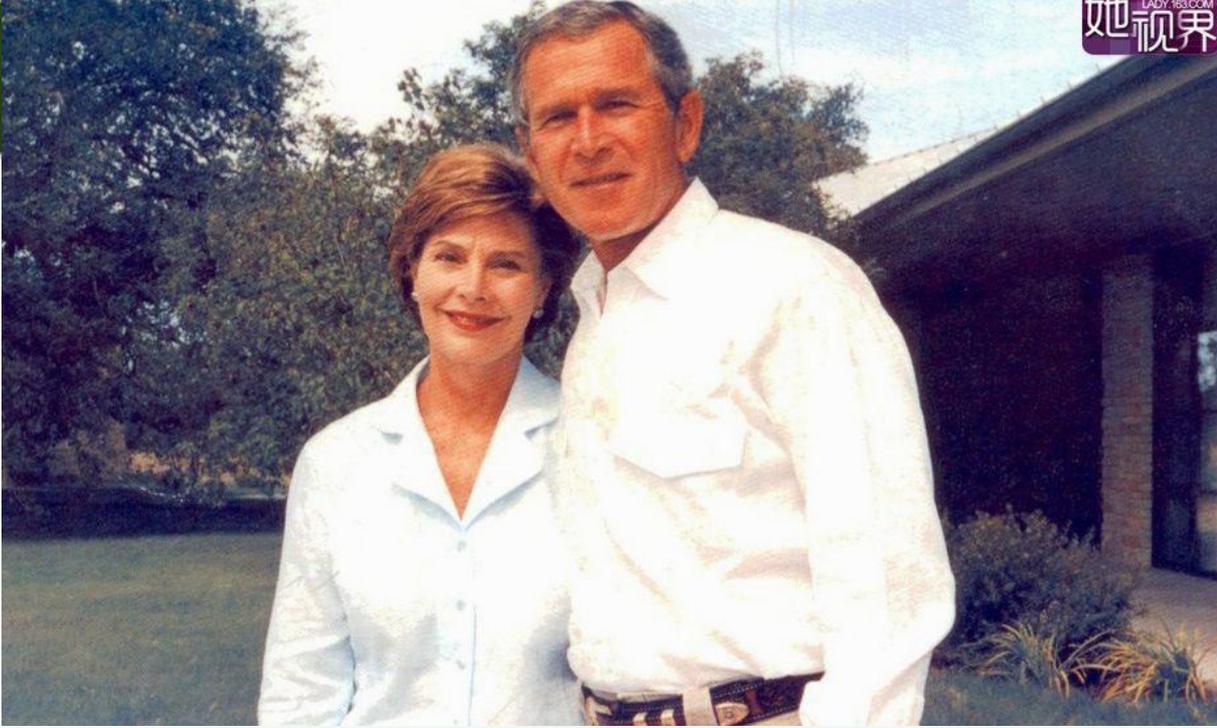
中国经济正处于飞速发展。

**The Chinese economy will be in high gear.**

# Why did he want Polly?

◆ ... but I was not one to let my heart rule my head.

I'm guided in my actions by reason and good sense and not by feelings and emotions.



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# pin-up proportion



Pin up



◆ **erectness** of carriage

**ease** of bearing

**best** of breeding

carriage= bearing



physical



physical/ mental

瑜伽能增进体态美。

**Yoga can improve the carriage.**

**She has a very modest bearing.**

她举止娴静。



◆ **If you're no-longer involved with her (stop dating her) others would be free to compete for her friendship and love.**

# He was a torn man.

◆ a waif at a bakery window → set his jaw → back and forth  
his resolution on Polly → stronger? weaker?

◆ desire waxing, resolution waning

The moon waxes and wanes every month.

# Para 60~61

◆ first date → a survey

The result?

Polly's language:

*Gee, delish, marvy, sensaysh*



a simple, rather stupid girl



## ◆ This **loomed** as a project of **no small dimensions** **no small**

- not bad = very good
- no easy = very difficult
- This is no small problem=This is a very big/serious problem.

**understatement**



**If sth. looms, it appears as a problem or event that is approaching, or that will soon happen**

**The threat of war loomed over the country.**

这个国家笼罩在战争的阴霾中。

雾霾中一个人影若隐若现。

**A figure loomed out of the mist.**



- To teach her to think appeared to be a rather big task and in the beginning I would like to return her to Petey.

# Fallacies in the 2nd date

- ◆ Dicto Simpliciter
- ◆ Hasty Generalization
- ◆ Post Hoc
- ◆ **Contradictory Premises**



- ◆ Beautiful young girls should stay away from those rich powerful married middle-aged men, as you can see what becomes of Haizao and Song Siming in the popular TV series *Dwelling Narrowness*.
- ◆ Those boys who study at foreign language schools are all not masculine; they have been assimilated by the overwhelming femininity of the girls who greatly outnumber them.
- ◆ Just think of those middle school girls who have been cheated and hurt by their so-called net friends—raped, blackmailed and even murdered. Can you still claim that Internet should be accessible to middle school students?



◆ **a false assumption**

- ◆ **Those boys who study at foreign language schools are all not masculine; they have been assimilated by the overwhelming femininity of the girls who greatly outnumber them.**



◆ to apply a special case to a general rule

Beautiful young girls should stay away from those rich powerful married middle-aged men, as you can see what becomes of Haizao and Song Siming in the popular TV series *Dwelling Narrowness (Woju)*.



- ◆ if event Y happened after event X, then X must be the cause of Y. → to dislocate the cause

**Just think of those middle school girls who have been cheated and hurt by their so-called net friends—raped, blackmailed and even murdered. Can you still claim that Internet should be accessible to middle school students?**



- ◆ **Conclusions are drawn from two premises that contradict each other**



- ◆ winced
- ◆ “It would be better if you stop tugging my sleeves.”
- ◆ hid my exasperation
- ◆ fought off a wave of despair
- ◆ sighed deeply
- ◆ frown

I was trying hard to control myself from being angry. The date became somewhat like a difficult and annoying task.



◆ I **deposited** her at the girls' dormitory...  
She deposited her shopping on the table.  
You can deposit your valuables in the hotel safe.  
Tenants are usually required to deposit 100 pounds with the agent, in case of damage or default.

I took her back and left her at the girls' dormitory.



- ◆ a bullet-proof car
- ◆ a sound-proof room



◆ **Who knew? Maybe somewhere in the extinct crater of her mind, a few **embers** still smoldered. Maybe somehow I could fan them into **flame**.**

embers ----- intelligence

→ Metaphor

**Maybe there is still a little intelligence left in Polly's stupid head, and perhaps I can develop it and make Polly become more intelligent.**

# Fallacies in the 3<sup>rd</sup> date

- ◆ Ad Misericordiam
- ◆ False Analogy
- ◆ Hypothesis Contrary to Fact
- ◆ Poisoning the Well



- ◆ Potentials are like water in sponge. Just as sponge must be squeezed in order to get water out, so we must push harder on our students to dig out their potentials.
- ◆ A: The Government should enact minimum-wage legislation so that workers are not exploited.  
B: Nonsense. You say that only because you cannot find a good job.



◆ to appeal to pity

b

- ◆ an error in the **substance** of an argument (the content of the analogy itself), not an error in the **logical structure** of the argument
- ◆ *Potentials are like water in sponge. Just as sponge must be squeezed in order to get water out, so we must push harder on our students to dig out their potentials.*



◆ to make a claim, without sufficient evidence

◆ *Without Chairman Mao, the Chinese people would still be in the abyss of misery.*



◆ to make a personal attack instead of offering a reasonable reason.

◆ *A: The Government should enact minimum-wage legislation so that workers are not exploited.*

*B: Nonsense. You say that only because you cannot find a good job.*



◆ **loose sentence**

**a basic statement with details added to it after the basic statement.**

◆ **periodic sentence**

**a sentence has its main idea at the **end** of the sentence.**



- ◆ **If Hitler imagines that his attack on Soviet Russia will cause the slightest divergence of aims or slackening of effort in the great democracies who are resolved upon his doom, he is woefully mistaken.**
- ◆ **Any man or state who fights on against Nazidom will have our aid. Any man or state who marches with Hitler is our foe.**



◆ ... it just knocked me out. That Walter Pidgeon is so dreamy. I mean he fractures me."

I was **excited** and filled with **pleasure** by the movie. That well-known actor Walter Pidgeon is so **wonderful** and he **fascinates** me.

◆ There is a limit to what **flesh and blood** can bear.



human being (synecdoche)

**He is my own flesh and blood.**

他是我的亲骨肉。

我简直受不了我丈夫的鼾声啦。

**My husband's snoring is more than flesh and blood can stand.**

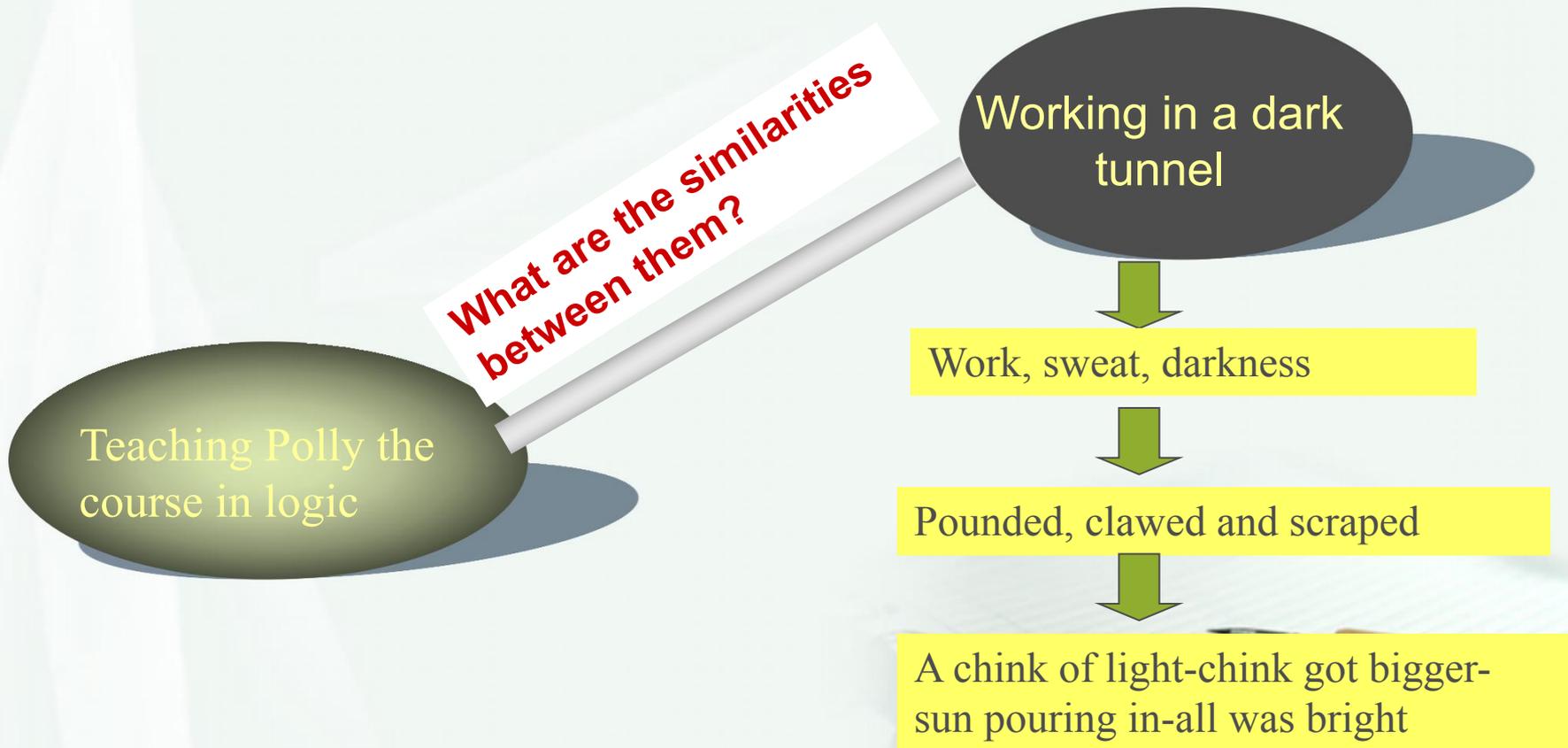


- ◆ Suddenly, a glimmer of intelligence—the first I had seen—came into her eyes.

Suddenly, from her eyes I could see for the first time a **small sign** showing she was beginning to understand the problem.

# Simile

◆ the simile.



# Did the narrator love Polly?



- ◆ Just as **Pygmalion** loved the perfect woman he had fashioned, so I loved mine.

**fashion: v. to shape or make sth. usually with one's hands or with only a few tools**

to fashion a hat out of leaves



# Pygmalion

- ◆ Greek mythology: a king of Cyprus, and a sculptor, who fell in love with his own statue of Galatea, later brought to life by the goddess of love, Aphrodite, at his prayer. 阿芙罗狄蒂(爱与美的女神)



*Professor Higgins and Doolittle*

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*'Pygmalion and Galatea*

## Para. 126-154: the last date

How did Polly  
reject him?





◆ the dear child  
patting her hand    tolerant



arrogant, patronized



◆ **Please, my darling, say that you will go steady with me, for if you will not, life will be meaningless. I will languish. I will refuse my meals. I will wander the face of the earth, a shambling, hollow-eyed hulk.”**  
**(Para.135)**

◆ “波利，我爱你。对我来说，你就是整个世界，是月亮，是星星，是整个宇宙。我亲爱的，请说你爱我吧。如果你不这样，我的生活就失去意义了。我将会萎靡不振，茶不饮，饭不思，到处游荡，成为一个步履蹒跚、双眼空洞的躯壳。”



◆ I ground my teeth. I was not **Pygmalion**; I was **Frankenstein**...

**Some people grind their teeth while they're asleep.**

**ground my teeth**→ extreme anger, but still trying to control

**Allusion**



◆ **Exasperation**



**Desperation**



the loss of temper

◆ **That did it.**

Polly's answer

That made me loose patience/ self-control.



◆ **I reeled back, overcome with the infamy of it.**

**overcome: v. If you are overcome by a feeling, you feel it very strongly**

他极度震惊。

He was overcome with astonishment.

◆ **I staggered back, overcome by the great wickedness of Petey's act.**



◆ He's a liar. He's a cheat. He's a rat.

parallel sentences

→ my rage over Petey



◆ jitterbug  
an emotional unstable person



- ◆ love” is an error, a deception and an emotion that does not follow the principles of logic. But the writer, through this story has succeeded perhaps unwittingly(无意地) in revealing what love may sometimes mean in the affluent society. Girls **do not** want brilliant, gifted or educated husbands, but want husbands who are **rich and wealthy** enough to provide all the things necessary in life—home, clothes, cars, etc..

# Relevant idioms

- ◆ **For "I"**
- ◆ 事与愿违 things turn out contrary to one's wishes
- ◆ 赔了夫人又折兵 give one's enemy a wife and lose one's soldiers as well—pay a double penalty
- ◆ 搬起石头砸自己的脚 to lift a stone only to drop it on one's own feet



◆ **For Petey**

- ◆ 大智若愚 Still waters run deep.
- ◆ 以其人之道还治其人之身 deal with a man as he deals with you

◆ **For Polly**

- ◆ 名师出高徒 A strict tutor produces top students
- ◆ 青出于蓝而胜于蓝 Indigo blue is extracted from the indigo plant but is bluer than the plant it comes from. (The pupil surpasses the master.)

# Language Appreciation



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- ◆ **Informal style:**
  - American colloquialism and slangs.**
  - inverted sentences**
  - short sentences**
  - **to increase the tempo**



## ◆ Language of the character

the writer "I"----- ultra precise terms:

- standard English
- 100% correct

**Polly----- vulgar forms and slang words:**

**gee, magnif, terrif, pshaw,**



A sharp contrast



◆ **Petey**

→ **pity**

◆ **Espy**

→ **I spy**