# LITERATURE

Structure, Sound, and Sense

Second Edition

LAURENCE PERRINE

Southern Methodist University



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## Preface

Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense is intended for the student who is beginning a serious study of imaginative literature. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the principal forms of fiction, poetry, and drama. Each section begins with a simple discussion of the elements of the form and is illustrated, throughout, by carefully chosen stories, poems, and plays. Each section also includes additional selections for further reading. The book seeks to give the student a sufficient grasp of the nature and variety of literary works, some reasonable means for reading them with appreciative understanding, and some basic principles for making literary judgments. Its objective is to help the student to understand, enjoy, and prefer good works of literature.

Each of the three sections has been revised for this Second Edition: thirteen of the forty-three stories, almost one-fourth of the nearly three hundred poems, and three of the twelve plays are new. The number of selections by black authors has been increased. (The fiction section is the Fourth Edition of Story and Structure; the poetry section is the Fourth Edition of Sound and Sense.)

A book of this kind inevitably owes something to all who have thought or written about literature. It would be impossible to express all indebtedness, but for personal advice, criticism, and assistance I wish especially to thank my wife, Catherine Perrine; Margaret Morton Blum and Marshall Terry, Southern Methodist University; Maynard Mack and David Thorburn, Yale University; Mark Schorer, University of California; Charles S. Holmes, Pomona College; Donald Peet, Indiana University; James W. Byrd, East Texas State University; Calvin L. Skaggs, Drew University; and Willis Glover, Mercer University.

L.P.

Southern Methodist University Dallas, Texas 

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