

Unit 5 Cheating

By *Susan Richards Shreve*



Susan Shreve



Ms. Shreve is a founder of the MFA Creative Writing Program at George Mason University, where she continues to teach. She has taught Creative Writing at Princeton University, Columbia University, and the Breadloaf and Bennington writers' conferences. An original board member of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation in Washington, D.C., she served as its president from 1985 to 1990. Her awards and honors include grants from the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

The range of her extraordinarily active career includes writing and delivery of short documentary essays for the Jim Lehrer News Hour. Daughters of the New World was adapted for an NBC television series under the title *A Will of Their Own*. Susan Shreve is a member of the Advisory Board of Washington Independent Writers. She lives with her husband, the literary agent Tim Seldes, in Washington D.C.

Susan Shreve's fiction is marked by its wide range of genre, setting and situation. Daughters of the New World is an unusually fluid and flexible generational saga; Glimmer is a first-person narrative by a modern mixed-race woman, which Shreve published under the pseudonym Annie Waters. (For Susan Shreve's account of the writing of *Glimmer*, read The Freedom of Anonymity, her essay from the New York Times Writers' on Writing Series.) All of her work is marked by her lyric gift and by a cool, precise acuity in rendering the nuances of feeling.



BIBLIOGRAPHY



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- **A Woman Like That, Atheneum, 1977**
- **Children of Power, Macmillan, 1979**
- **Miracle Play, William Morrow and Co., 1981**
- **Dreaming of Heroes, William Morrow and Co., 1984**
- **Queen of Hearts, Simon and Schuster, 1987**
- **A Country of Strangers, Simon and Schuster, 1989**
- **Daughters of the New World, Doubleday, 1992**





Preview Questions

What do you think of cheating on tests?



Key Words



1. My mother's one of those people who tells you everything you've done wrong for thirty years like you do it every day. It drives me crazy.

That's the thing that really drives me crazy about my mother. She knows things sitting inside my head same as if I was turned inside out.

He doesn't say anything at first and that just about kills me. I'd be fine if he's spank me or something . To say nothing can drive a person crazy.

2. My parents don't bother making up a lot of rules. But we do have to tell the truth— even if it's bad, which it usually is. (trouble themselves with)





3. I'd sit down next to Stanley Plummer-- he is so smart in math it makes you sick— and from time to time, I'd glance over at his paper to copy the answers. It would be a cinch.

4. I have a bad temper and I like to have my own way and I argue a lot. Sometimes I can be mean.

He 's not friendly but he's not absolutely mean either.

5. But most of the time I've thought of myself as a pretty decent kid. Mostly I work hard, I stick up for little kids, and I tell the truth. (defend, support)

6. She thinks something happened today and you're upset. (uneasy)

My stomach is feeling sort of upset.



Difficult Points & Solutions



1. “You can imagine how much I like Mr. Burke”.

The true meaning of this sentence is that “you can imagine how much I hate Mr. Burke”. This sort of writing style is called irony. It is a type of usually humorous expression in which you say the opposite of what you intend.

2. “Anyway, I got my desk ready to study on since it was stacked with about two million things.”

In this sentence, the author uses a kind of writing style—hyperbole in order to strengthen the degree of humor and make the language lively. On the other hand, it also coincides with the language of a child.

3. “I began to wonder whether I was plain bad to the core”

“plain” means “completely”. The phrase “to the core” also means “completely”.

For example, “he is honest to the/very core” 他是个十足的老实人。

4. “Mostly I like myself fine”.

When “fine” is used in spoken English, it just means very much. So this sentence means, “At most time I like myself very much” or “At most time I am self-satisfied”.

For example, talk fine 说得好听, suit sb fine 太适合某人



Structure Analysis



Division	Paragraph	Main Idea
Part I	Page67-67	How did the boy feel after he cheated on a unit test in math class?
Part II	Page 67-68	Why and how did he cheat in class?
Part III	Page68-69	The boy finally realized it was wrong to do so. He confessed to his father and teacher what he had done.



Comprehension Questions



- **What did the boy feel like after he cheated on the math test?**
- **The boy watched the television special the night before the test but he didn't really enjoy it.**
- **How did he do in math class?**
- **What did the boy begin to worry after the cheating?**
- **The father kissed the boy good night. Why?**



Topic for Discussion



Q: What do you think of the boy in the story? Why did he wish he were dead after he had cheated?

A: The boy in the story is proud for himself to be an honest kid. He has the strong feeling of self-respect so he felt criminal after cheating on the test and felt that his stomach was upside down. Then he told his father everything that he had not planned to say. After knowing what had happened to the boy, his father did not say anything but ask him to call his teacher Mr. Burke. The boy told Mr. Burke exactly what happened, even that he had decided to cheat the night before the test. At last Mr. Burke forgave the boy and allowed him to have another test. It is because the boy is a decent kid that he wished he were dead after he had cheated.



Q: What do you think of cheating on tests?

A: Many students have the experience of cheating on the tests because they want to get good scores. They may say to themselves: It's just a little dishonesty, and just a small thing. However, if you are dishonest in small matters, you will also be dishonest in large matters, and in the end you will be an entirely dishonest man. So we should realize the harm that cheat does to us. If we cheat on tests, we may lose the trust of our teachers and classmates and be expelled from school. Don't make such an excuse for yourself: A little dishonesty is only a small thing", but bear in your mind that "Honesty is the best policy". So as long as we study diligently we are sure to make progress and be successful in tests. Don't turn into the "criminal" because of the stupid tests.



Fast Reading



1-5	A	D	C	A	A
6-10	B	C	D	C	B
11-15	C	A	B	B	B



Home Reading



1-5 B C C C A

6-8 C B A

