

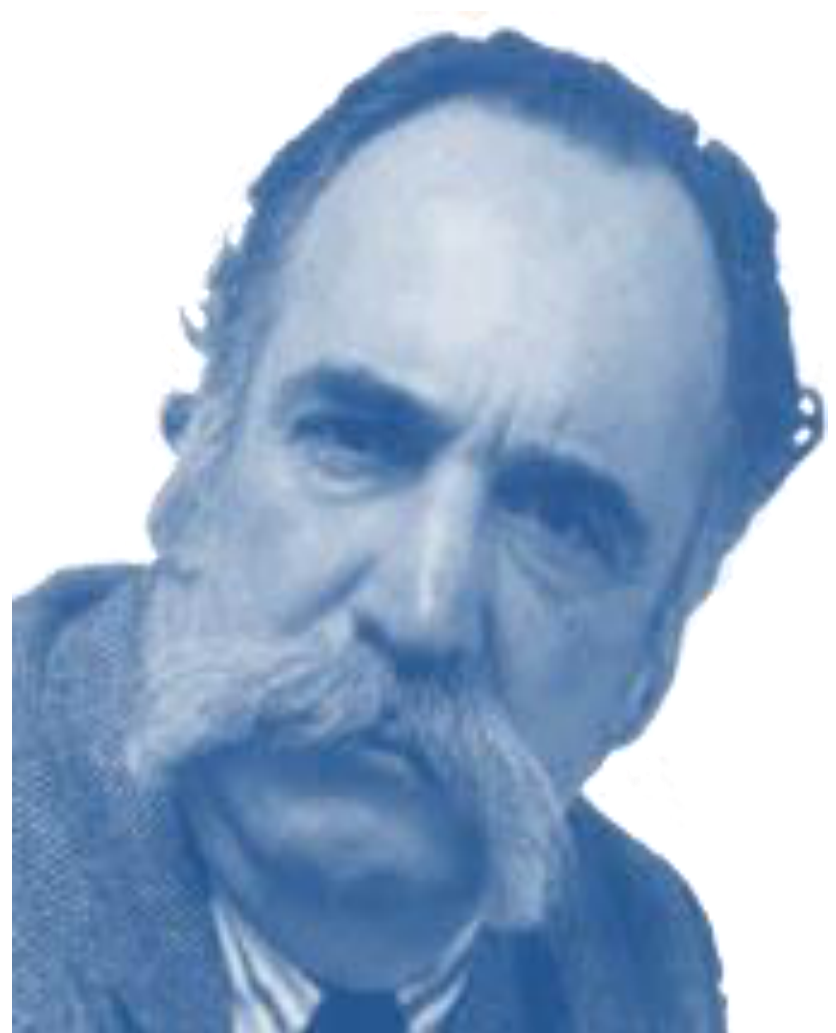
WILLIAM SAROYAN



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William Saroyan (August 31, 1908 – May 18, 1981) was an American [dramatist](#) and author. He was awarded the [Pulitzer Prize for Drama](#) in 1940, and in 1943 won the [Academy Award for Best Story](#) for the film adaptation of his novel [The Human Comedy](#).

An [Armenian American](#), Saroyan wrote extensively about the Armenian immigrant life in California. Many of his stories and plays are set in his native [Fresno](#). Some of his best-known works are [The Time of Your Life](#), [My Name Is Aram](#) and [My Heart's in the Highlands](#).



The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

- **Armenia**

Armenia is a tiny nation between Georgia on the west and Azerbaijan on the east. There is the Black Sea on its west and Caspian Sea on its east.

- **The Garoghlanian family.**
- An old, probably a fictitious Armenian family. It was once famous for its honesty but at present it is struggling under poverty. Even under extreme poverty the Garoghlanian families are known for honesty.

The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

- **Theme**

The theme of the narrative is the inevitability of change that challenges traditions and long established beliefs. The Garoghlanian tribe was always known for its honesty and still the older generations of the impoverished tribe uphold their trademark honesty but the new ones are no more ready to pretend. In fact there were already elements in the family, the black sheep like Mourad and Aram, who questioned and thwarted their traditional virtues to embark the pleasures of the world.



Summary

- Mourad, a young boy of the Garoghlanian family, steals a white horse that belonged to farmer John Byro. Believing that this act of using someone's horse was not stealing, he rides the horse for a long time and hid it in a barn. When he had enough of the horse ride, Mourad allows his cousin Aram to ride the horse. Though it was a dream come true for Aram, horse riding was not that easy for him.



Summary

- While this fun ride went on, the owner of the horse came to Aram's parents and said how terribly he had lost his horse and expected them to get the horse for him. Aram heard this and informed Mourad of John Byro. Mourad ignored this and the horse ride progressed. One day, while taking the horse to its hiding place, the boys stopped shocked at the sight of the desperate farmer, John Byro, coming against them!



Summary

- The good farmer examined his lost horse and exclaimed that the horse looked closely like his own but he refused to believe that the boys had stolen his horse because a member of the Garoghlanian family could not steal. Hearing this, the two boys felt extremely guilty for their act of stealing. Consequently they return the horse.

