

**Pinckney Benedict Table of Contents**

Use in combination with the program script

...often funny. Benedict’s comments about Breece Pancake make the two CDs good companions for classroom study. Excellent advice to writers.

Highly recommended for college and - with teacher discretion - high school classes.

\* Starred tracks are great resources for students of all ages: childhood memories, the story, “The Sutton Pie Safe” and “Odom,” especially.

- Key: Italics:** Benedict” reading his work
- W:** Advice or conversation about writing
- F/H:** Fictionalizing history: turning actual events into fiction or poetry
- CM:** Childhood memories
- AM:** Adult memories
- CH:** Cultural heritage
- IWV:** Identity as a West Virginian
- CNW:** Connection with the natural world: attachment to land and animals
- CCF:** Connection with community and/or family
- J:** Justice as a theme
- \* Material appropriate for older elementary students



1. (:38) “About the time I’ve got people worried about my sanity, I’m probably doing something right!” **W**
- \* 2. (“44) “I’ve never wanted to live outside the Blue Ridge”. Identification with the mountains. **IWV W CNW**
3. (:36) Exerpts from reviews and biographical information. **W**
4. (2:05) Childhood games: playing in the cowpit and garbage hole > “I listen to music as I write.” **CM CNW W**
5. (:33) Set-up for “Rescuing Moon” reading: A young guy busts a beloved older man, Moon, out of a nursing home. **CCF CH**
6. (2:29) “Rescuing Moon,” Part 1: Up to the time when Grady takes Moon away **CCF CH**
7. (1:01) Part 2, “Rescuing Moon.” Grady busts Moon out, with Mrs. Tincher in close pursuit **C CCH**
8. (5:11) Part 3, “Rescuing Moon.” “You going to give him his pills. Grady starts to realize. **C CCH**
9. (:51) “You’ve got a lot of characters who act without thinking about the consequences...” His response. “They ... fulfill some aspect of me that I don’t possess...” **W**
- \* 10. (:56) Benedict’s stories often involve a young man and a father figure. Set-up for “The Sutton Pie Safe” reading. Part 1: Dad and son planning to make a black snake belt. The judge’s wife arrives. **CH CCF**
- \* 11. (2:14) “The Sutton Pie Safe,” Part 2. The judge’s wife makes it clear that she wants the pie safe. **CH CCF CNW**
- \* 12. (1:25) Part 3. She makes her pitch. **CH CCF**

- \* 13. (3:25) *Part 4. Dad objects.* **CH CCF**
- 14. (1:14) How Benedict wrote "The Sutton Pie Safe." Joyce Carol Oates' intervention **W**
- 15. (1:22) Comparing reviews of his books: the differing ways reviewers describe his characters. His comments. **W CH**
- 16. (:43) Robertson Davies: the writer as moralist **W**
- 17. (2:43) "*Getting Over Arnette*" *exerpt. Two goofy guys on the loose tangle with the Special Forces vet.*
- 18. (2:31) Benedict talks about violence in his fiction, characters, society and in himself. **W**
- 19. (1:07) People are often disappointed to find that he is mild-mannered and not "sort of terrifying." **W**
- 20. (1:44) *Theme: life is unprecictable. Reading: the cat and chipmunk, from Dogs of God.* **CNW**
- 21. (:18) "Do you write about things that frighten you?" His response. **W**
- 22. (1:25) "Pinckney Benedict will probably never be accused of writing naval-gazer stories." His dislike of "living room fiction." **W**
- 23. (1:25) *Reading from "Booze," from Town Smokes. Part 1: a local farmer owns a giant, vicious hog. A compelling description.* **CNW**
- 24. (3:20) "*Booze,*" *Part 2. The hog escapes. Two boys meet him in the woods. He attacks.* **CNW**
- 25. (:57) Comparing Booze with Tannhauser, from Dogs of God. **W**
- 26. (1:47) *Reading, from Dogs of God: Tannhauser orders a Mexican guy to strangle another guy.* With comments before and after. **CCF** (negative)
- 27. (2:40) Excellent remarks about the function of the right brain in fiction: "It has a lot to do with dreaming." **W**
- \* 28. (1:11) Young Pinckney makes books with his mom > A good teacher encourages him to write what he knows. **CM W**
- 29. (2:02) Breece Pancake: Benedict's first encounter with Pancake's work, his feelings about Pancake, Pancake's influence on him. **W**
- 30. (:52) "Is it ever a burden that people compare you to Pancake so much?" His response. **W**
- \* 31. (3:49) Set-up for reading from "Odom": "It's my unsung favorite" ... "It accomplished so much ... of what I want to accomplish." *Odom reading starts with father and son blowing out stumps.* **CCF CNW**
- \* 32. (3:31) "*Odom*" *reading, Part 2. The son drives to the valley. Odom panics, thinks his son has been hurt.* **CCF CNW**
- 33. (:33) "It seems to me that it's the job of art to reveal as beautiful those things that are not apparently beautiful." **W**

