Cynthia Rylant Table of Contents

Use in combination with the program script

This table of contents works best as a guide for people who have listened to the CD and want to find favorite parts. Teachers may want to print it out and make notes on it as they listen to the program, choosing tracks for classroom use.

<u>Classroom content:</u> This CD will be just as useful in college classrooms as it will be in elementary classrooms. Cynthia Rylant is a marvelously skillful writer whose compact compositions ably demonstrate the tools of narrative and descriptive writing. Her comments about writing process and advice about writing differ from other writers and underscore the fact that there are many paths to excellence.

This collection is a marvelous resource for teachers, a treasure. Each track can be used to spark classroom activities.

Key: Italics: Author reading her 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 for older students, rather than elementary

"You have such a way of communicating directly with people..." Cynthia's response. W

- 2. (:55) "If you're a serious writer, a serious artist, you write about those things that you're deply by ..." W
- 3. (1:08) "No West Virginia writer is more loved than Cynthia Rylant. A lot of her fans are under three feet tall, but grownups, don't tune out." Introduction to Cynthia: information and exerpts from reviews.

 W
- 4. (3:32) The Relatives Came, CCF, CH, CM
- 5. (:26) "I think you had some good storytellers to listen to ..." Cynthia's response. CM, W, CCF, CH
- 6. (1:03) "You write about ordinary things..." She describes her early childhood. CCF, CG, CM, W
- 7. (:53) Poem from Waiting to Waltz: "Sam the Shop Man" CH, J, CCF
- 8. (2:55) Night in the Country CNW, CM, CH,
- 9. (2:29) More detailed childhood memories, from childhood through high school to college. CM, W, CH, CCF, W, IWV
- 10. (:27) Introduction to Waiting to Waltz poem collage (the three poems that follow): W
- 11. (:42) "Catholics" small-town girl contemplates Catholic boys CH, CM, CCF
- 12. (:35) "General Delivery" small town address CH, CM, CCF, IWV

- 13. (:55) "Saved" A girl brings her mother to church and gets saved CH, CM, CCF
- 14. (1:51) "Some people have natural storytelling voices ... "leads into reminiscences about her family, telling stories around the kitchen table W, CM, CH, CCF, IWV
- 15. (4:09) From the first chapter of Missing May IWV, CH, CCF
- 16. (1:58) From college to writer: her discovery of children's books while working at a library in the children's department. **W, AM**
- 17. (:23) When I Was Young in the Mountains, introduction W
- 18. (3:20) When I Was Young in the Mountains reading IWV, CNW, CCF, CM
- 19. (1:01) How When I Was Young in the Mountains got published. W, AM
- 20. (2:29) Her comments on her writing process: "I go months without putting a word down on a piece of paper." Then .. W
- 21. (3.34) Scarecrow CNW
- 22. (1.41) "I have this image of all these beautiful stories and poems up there ..." How she wrote Dog Heaven. W
- 23. (3:13) Spirituality: She talks about one of the hallmarks of her writing. W, CNW
- 24. (2:08) Background of her novel, <u>I Had Seen Castles</u>, a World War II story. How she decided to write the novel. **W**, **F/H**, **CCF**
- * 25. (2:12) Reading from I Had Seen Castles F/H
- 26. (1:45) The different sides of being a writer: "I'm not sure that I like being a writer ... On the other hand, I have to look at the books and believe because of the many doors that have been opened for me to be a writer ..." W, CCF
- * 27. (:50) Why she doesn't accept public appearance invitations: "When I first started writing, I used to go out on the road and would do school visits and speak at conferences and found that I'm very shy..." Comments about her chief role: mother. W, CCF
- 28. (1:22) Background of her poetry book, <u>Something Permanent</u>. Her poems are inspired by the photos of Walker Evans. Three samples follow: **W**, **F/H**, **CH**
- 29. (:54) "Shoes" a beloved older relative's shoes after he dies CCF
- * 30. (:51) "Filling Station" a rich man's son gets a filling station job every boy wants CCF
- 31. (:41) "Photograph" a small boy wonders why the man wants to take his picture CH
- * 32. (1.11) "Bed" a hard-pressed couple with seven children begin "the sex that will make them richer and poorer at the same time." CHECK QUOTE CCF
- 33. (1:51) Her pride in being from West Virginia. How she went from trying to hide her West Virginia roots to full pride. IWV, CCF, CH
- 34. (2:14) Advice to writers, including children W

- 35. (:17) Introduction to Best Wishes exerpt: W, CCF
- 36. (2:00) Exerpt from Rylant's autobiography for children, Best Wishes. CM, CCF, CH

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