

## **Stereotype Stories**

These stories are designed to elicit social stereotypes. After all of the stories are the memory probe items. These assess whether people can remember what was in the story. There are four versions of each probe. These are V = Verbatim, P = paraphrase, I = inference, and W = wrong. These data would then be submitted to a Schmalhofer and Glavanov analysis.

### **Christmas Story**

It had been a mild autumn and winter. The weather had been perfect. It looked like it was going to be a great holiday season. Tonight was the night of the annual family Christmas party. Jamal came in the back door, arriving late. The back door had been left unlocked this evening. It also didn't squeak like it normally did. Someone must have oiled the hinges. Everyone was seated at the dining room table. The house was already abuzz with chatter and laughter. Susan, the family friend, was the first to see Jamal walk in. Susan was a nun at the local hospital. She was clearly unhappy about the amount of alcohol being served, although the rest of the guests were enjoying themselves. Susan's face brightened when she saw that Jamal had finally arrived. Moments later Jamal seated himself. He waved to everyone. He also made sure to flash his winning smile. Jamal made a point of sitting next to his mother, Pearl. Then, his brother Malik, came into the room bearing an enormous turkey. Jamal watched with anticipation. Malik was having trouble carrying the large turkey into the room. Susan saw that Jamal didn't help. The turkey looked great, and it tasted wonderful too. However, it soon became apparent that something was amiss. Pearl had not put the stuffing into the turkey when she cooked it. But no one seemed to mind. Pearl quickly microwaved the stuffing, which tasted just fine. The conversation tended to die down while people ate, but by the time dessert was served several conversations had again started up around the large table. Jamal and his brother Malik reminisced about high school. Malik talked about how his brother almost never seemed to be home. Jamal was always at his after school activities. Malik would always be ready with a trick on him when he came home. Other people looked at them as they shared several laughs. Jamal turned his attention to Cousin Sharon. She was talking about her son Malcolm's application to college. Malcolm wasn't surprised when he received his SAT scores. She wondered whether he would get into a good college. Jamal reassured his cousin Sharon. He said that things would work out one way or another. Sharon replied that it was easy for Jamal to be so casual. Jamal didn't have any kids. This was true, but Jamal reminded Sharon that at least Malcom wasn't trying to make a living like her eldest son, Deon. Deon was always playing sports. Soon, someone interrupted to suggest that they turn on the television. Apparently there was a special live showing that evening of "The Night Before Christmas". The local community theater was putting it on. Pearl's brother had been given a minor role. Everyone was excited to see him. This turned out to be a bad idea. The guests quickly became uncomfortable. They watched him struggle with his lines. It seemed like Pearl's brother didn't really understand his character. However, they had no choice but to watch the show. Everyone was relieved when the evening finally drew to a close.

## Appalachians Story

Sally and Billy arrived at the motel outside of Dayton. The trip from West Virginia had been uneventful. Two of their kids were staying with Sally's mother, and two were being watched by her older sister. They couldn't afford the nice hotels located in the big city, so they settled on a really cheap place just off I-75. They never had much money coming from the hills of West Virginia. Sally had trouble reading the motel's brochure. They were coming to Dayton because Billy had just been hired. He got a job as a delivery driver for a hardware store. He had been applying for jobs for months before he got this one. Few companies would hire a man with skills like Billy. Finally, he got an interview and was hired. The company had sent Billy here to attend a seminar. The seminar was to be held during the morning and afternoon. The company also provided complimentary tickets to a play that evening. Sally was glad that Billy had gotten this job. She bought him a suit last weekend from a second-hand store. She carefully unpacked it and hung it in the closet. Billy called the front desk for a wake-up call. The two of them got into bed. After watching a NASCAR race, they fell deeply asleep. The next morning, Sally was still asleep when Billy woke up. He quickly got dressed and stood in front of the mirror. Billy looked at himself wearing the suit. He combed his hair and looked for his watch. Sally woke up when she heard him rummaging through the suitcase. She got up and pulled on a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt. The sweatshirt had a picture of Travis Tritt on it. She needed to take the car to a mechanic while Billy was at the seminar. Billy found his watch and said that he was ready. Sally took the car keys from the bedside table. They got in the car and drove away. Eventually, they arrived at their exit on the highway. They had plenty of time; the seminar wasn't starting for another hour. Before going to it, they decided to make a quick stop. Sally pulled into the drive-thru of a McDonald's. They wanted to get some coffee and something to eat. Billy and Sally ordered a couple of Egg McMuffins. They ate in the car on the way to the workshop. Billy reminded her to take the car to a mechanic. The car engine was making a loud rattling sound. It had started when they arrived at the motel last night. When they got to the workshop, Billy hopped out and ran inside. Sally, still feeling tired, decided to head back to the motel. She thought about taking the car to get fixed. Instead, she plopped down on the bed at the motel. Sally spent the rest of the day watching television. She had about 7 cups of coffee during the day. She had changed into a dress with a large flower pattern. At 7 o'clock that evening, Sally picked up Billy from the seminar, and they drove directly to the theater. Sally rushed inside to use the restroom. Inside the lobby, Billy was standing near a young couple holding a baby. The man remarked that he was excited to see this performance. It wasn't often that Romeo and Juliet was done in this town. Billy had never heard of the play. Just then Sally returned. She lit up a cigarette and stood next to the young couple with the baby. Sally puffed on her cigarette and was blowing smoke. When she was finished, they went inside the theater. Billy and Sally were seated in the third row. The play began shortly after they sat down. After the play, Billy and Sally met an elderly couple. The elderly couple introduced themselves as Mr. and Mrs. Thornton. Billy was telling the elderly couple about his new job. He was smiling as he talked. Mrs. Thornton couldn't help noticing Billy's smile. After a few minutes, Mr. and Mrs. Thornton left.

Billy and Sally decided to go back to the motel. They didn't want to be tired for the drive back.

## **Jews Story**

Mr. and Mrs. Goldbloom stepped into their home. They had just come back from the synagogue. Although they weren't usually there on Tuesday mornings, today they were meeting with a group who was planning a trip to New York. Mrs. Goldbloom was hanging up her coat. She carefully put it on the hanger and set it back in the closet. She started up their conversation from the car. Mrs. Goldbloom said she couldn't believe the price of fish. Mr. Goldbloom agreed. He sat down in the living room. He turned on the T.V. He was hoping to catch some news. Right now all that was on was ice dancing. Things had been stressful for him at work. Life was not always easy working at a jewelry shop. He wanted to do well. His family had been in the business for generations. He couldn't let his brother Benjamin outdo him. Mrs. Goldbloom came into the room. She said she'd been talking to her friend Irene. Irene had just gotten some cosmetic surgery. Mrs. Goldbloom said she looked like a movie star. She asked her husband if he thought she should get some as well. Mrs. Goldbloom had some facial features that stood out. Mr. Goldbloom didn't think there was any good way to answer this question. He smiled at her, and said they could certainly talk about this later that evening. He got out of the chair and put on his hat and coat. He needed to go into work. He looked outside through a window. Mr. Goldbloom took an umbrella from the closet. Just as he was about to step out of the door the telephone rang. He picked it up. It was his mother. She called him often. His mother inquired when he was coming to visit next. Mr. Goldbloom promised to do what he could. But, he explained, he had to get back to work. He said he would call her later. He met his wife at the garage door. In his own romantic way he bowed down and kissed her left hand saying "Until we meet again my sweet!" As he kissed her hand, he noticed the ring she was wearing. The stone and the band needed polishing. He made a mental note to take care of it soon. He walked into the garage, got into his car and started it up. On the way to work Mr. Goldbloom turned on the radio. All he heard was a commercial for acne cream and some talk radio host ranting about taxes. He walked into the shop and saw the new assistant manning the counter. Mr. Goldbloom had recently hired the Cohen's boy, David. He thought the boy looked goofy in those glasses he wore. He thought about it some more. That boy would probably look goofy without those glasses as well. He looked just like his old man did in high school. At that moment a customer walked in. It was a young man looking for a gift for his girlfriend. He said he wanted to get her something expensive. Mr. Goldbloom showed the customer several items. Finally, the man got excited about one of the items. The man liked one of the necklaces and asked how much it was. It was one of the more common styles and not the best quality. Mr. Goldbloom thought a little and gave him a price. The man paid with his credit card and left. After that burst of activity, business was rather slow for the next hour or so. Mr. Goldbloom had David doing a bunch of busy work. He liked to keep on top of things, and this backlog of work had been bothering him. Around lunchtime, Mr. Goldbloom's old friend, Saul Steinberg came in. Saul asked him if he was ready to go out to lunch. Mr. Goldbloom said 'yes' and they left. They went to the new restaurant down on Duck Street. On the walk there Mr. Goldbloom stopped at an ATM machine. He told

Saul that he needed to make a deposit. Saul stood and waited. It seemed like Mr. Goldbloom dealt with his account every day. Mr. Goldbloom finished and they moved on. The restaurant had a relaxing atmosphere. They ordered a nice lunch. Over lunch, Saul and Mr. Goldbloom talked about politics. There was a heated race between the Democratic and Republican senate candidates. It wasn't clear who was going to win. The Democrat was running a campaign based on economic issues, whereas the Republican was focused on social questions. Both were very popular candidates. The two men agreed on which candidate they wanted to see win. After finishing their conversation, they agreed to meet again for lunch next Tuesday. Mr. Goldbloom left what he thought was an appropriate tip. They parted ways. Both were going back to work. Mr. Goldbloom fished a pack of gum out of his pocket. He still hadn't been able to get any news. He thought that maybe he would stop and buy a newspaper.

### **Mall Story**

The mall was a very busy place. It was one of the few places in town that large groups of people gathered. That is, if you didn't count the superhighway. Marcellus was walking with a group of his friends. They had just come from a Troubled Black Youths conference. They often came to this mall. It had lots of expensive stores, located in the upper class suburb of Brookview Heights. One of his friends, Marcus, stopped to look in a store window. Marcus was checking out the display. The window was full of Marcus's favorite shoes. Marcellus, Reggie, and Leroy were all talking. They didn't notice Marcus had stopped. They were telling jokes about each other girlfriends. Each one was trying to top the other. Leroy told a particularly nasty one about Marcus's girlfriend. It was at that point that they noticed he wasn't behind them. Marcellus told Marcus to catch up. Marcus gave a grin and rushed back to join up. As he was running, Marcus dropped something. It was a pencil he had stuck in his pocket. Marcus turned around, picked it up, and then went back to the group. He found them rolling their eyes, folding their arms, and tapping their feet. Basically, they found his delays tiresome. They continued walking through the mall. Reggie was complaining about not having enough money. Marcellus told him to try to cheer up. They were passing by a crowd at the food court. Marcellus bumped into a woman with a number of packages. The packages tumbled all over the place. They helped the lady pick up her purchases. When they were finished, she said that a ring she had just bought was missing. Marcellus said he hadn't seen the ring. They left the distraught woman when a mall security guard showed up. Marcellus told Marcus that the woman should be more careful. They walked some more until they came to some benches and sat down. Marcus started to hum and tap out a rhythm with his fingers. Leroy grinned when he heard the tune. Marcellus smiled as well. He had last heard it in the car on the way there. Marcellus started singing the song. This made Leroy laugh all the more. He said that Marcellus should keep his day job. They were joking like this when the mall security guard approached. He told them the woman still hadn't found her ring. He wanted to know if they could tell him more. Leroy told the mall security guard what he thought. The mall security guard thought about this for a moment. Then he said, "Thanks anyway," and moved on. After he left, Marcellus started to think about what to do now. He suggested that they go down to the large anchor store at the South end. His friends agreed after a bit. They got up and started moving through the mall again. Reggie

asked Marcellus about his brother, Anton. Reggie said he hadn't seen Anton lately. Ever since that incident with the stolen BMW. Marcellus said that Anton was going to be gone for a long time. He didn't say much more than that. He hoped that Reggie wouldn't bring up his cousin Danae. Danae was in jail on drug charges. Reggie said that was too bad about Anton. He said that Anton always had the best stuff. He was going to miss that. Leroy gave out a shout. They saw their school principal walking down the mall. They all waved and said "Hi!" She waved back. They stopped and asked her how she was doing. She told them that she was doing fine. She said she was shopping while her husband was home watching the game. The game?!?! They had all forgotten about the big game. They rushed out of the mall to get home and watch it before it ended.

## **Christmas Story**

V,P,I,W

**It seemed like Pearl's brother didn't really understand his character.**

It appeared that Pearl's brother really didn't understand his role.

Pearl's brother wasn't the brightest member of the cast.

Pearl's brother delivered his lines very smoothly.

**Jamal came in the back door, the last one to arrive.**

Jamal was the last to arrive, coming in the back door.

Jamal was always late for things.

Jamal was the first guest to arrive.

**Malcolm wasn't surprised when he received his SAT scores.**

When Malcolm's SAT scores came, he wasn't surprised by his scores.

Malcolm had scored low on the SAT.

Malcolm had not taken the SAT yet.

**Susan saw that Jamal didn't help.**

Susan saw that Jamal didn't lend a hand.

Jamal was a lazy person and didn't help.

Susan was happy that Jamal was so helpful.

**Jamal was always at his after school activities.**

Jamal was at his activities after school all the time.

Jamal was always playing sports after school.

Jamal always came home right after school.

**Deon was always playing sports.**

Deon played sports all the time.

Deon was very athletic.

Deon was pretty much a couch potato.

**Jamal made a point of sitting next to his mother, Pearl.**

Jamal made sure he sat by his mother, Pearl.  
Jamal had a strong sense of family.  
Jamal never liked spending time with his family.

**Other people looked at them as they shared several laughs.**

Other people watched them sharing several laughs.  
Malik and Jamal laughed very loudly when they talked.  
People noticed how quiet Jamal and Malik were being.

**Jamal watched with anticipation.**

Jamal watched eagerly.  
Jamal was very hungry.  
Jamal didn't like turkey.

**Everyone was seated at the dining room table.**

All of the people were seated at the dining room table.  
It was about time for dinner to begin.  
Everyone was sitting in the living room.

**Susan's face brightened when she saw that Jamal had finally arrived.**

Susan's face lit up when she saw that Jamal had arrived at last.  
Susan had been waiting for Jamal to arrive.  
Susan scowled when Jamal walked into the house.

**Pearl had not put the stuffing into the turkey when she cooked it.**

Pearl had not cooked the turkey with stuffing in it.  
Pearl had forgotten to put stuffing in the turkey.  
The stuffing tasted great after having been baked with the turkey.

**Jamal reassured his cousin Sharon.**

Sharon was reassured by her cousin Jamal.  
Sharon was worried about her son Malcom.  
Jamal made his cousin Sharon feel worried.

**Jamal didn't have any kids.**

Jamal didn't have any children.  
Jamal lived alone without any children.  
Jamal's son was failing at Ohio State.

**Susan, the family friend, was the first to see Jamal walk in.**

The family friend, Susan, was the first to see Jamal come in.  
Susan was sitting so that she could see the back door.  
Susan didn't see Jamal until he had been there for a while.

**Pearl's brother had been given a minor role.**

A minor role was given to Pearl's brother.

Pearl's brother was a member of the community theater group.  
Pearl's brother had not been able to land a part in the play.

### **Appalachians Story**

V,P,I,W

#### **Mrs. Thornton couldn't help noticing Billy's smile.**

Mrs. Thornton couldn't stop from noticing Billy's teeth.  
Mrs. Thornton saw that Billy's teeth were disgusting.  
Mrs. Thornton saw that Billy's eyes were blue.

#### **Sally had trouble reading the motel's brochure.**

Sally had problems reading the motel's brochure.  
Sally had trouble because she could not read very well.  
Sally spent a lot of time reading.

#### **Billy had never heard of the play.**

Billy never heard of this play before.  
Billy wasn't very cultured.  
Billy saw this play many times before.

#### **Billy looked at himself wearing the suit.**

Billy looked at himself in the suit.  
Billy felt uncomfortable wearing the suit.  
Billy borrowed a suit from his friend.

#### **Billy and Sally ordered a couple of Egg McMuffins.**

Sally and Billy each ordered an Egg McMuffin.  
Billy and Sally often ate at fast food restaurants.  
Billy and Sally had a bagel and some fruit.

#### **Sally spent the rest of the day watching television.**

Sally spent the rest of the day in front of the television.  
Sally was lazy and didn't always do her errands.  
Sally fixed the car by herself.

#### **Few companies would hire a man with skills like Billy.**

Not many companies would hire a person with Billy's skills.  
Billy didn't have many work skills.  
Billy was recruited by many companies.

#### **Sally puffed on her cigarette and was blowing smoke.**

Sally was blowing smoke from the cigarette she was puffing.  
Sally's smoking was inconsiderate.  
Sally couldn't find any cigarettes in her purse.

**Sally took the car keys from the bedside table.**

Sally grabbed the car keys from the bedside table.

Sally was going to drive Billy to the seminar.

Sally gave Billy the car keys.

**The car engine was making a loud rattling sound.**

A loud rattling sound was coming from the car engine.

The car was old and not well maintained.

The car had a flat tire.

**Billy and Sally were seated in the third row.**

Billy and Sally's seats were in the third row.

The company gave Billy and Sally good seats.

Billy and Sally were seated in the back row.

**The trip from West Virginia had been uneventful.**

The journey from West Virginia was uneventful.

They drove up from West Virginia.

Billy and Sally were in a car accident.

**The company had sent Billy here to attend a seminar.**

Billy was sent here by the company to attend a seminar.

The company needed to train Billy for his new job.

The company sent Billy on a two week vacation.

**Billy was telling the elderly couple about his new job.**

Billy was speaking to the older couple about his new job.

Billy was proud of his new job.

Billy hated his new job.

**Billy called the front desk for a wake-up call.**

Billy called the front desk to request a wake-up call.

Billy didn't want to oversleep.

Billy forgot to ask for a wake-up call.

**Sally rushed inside to use the restroom.**

Sally hurried inside to use the ladies' room.

Sally had too many cups of coffee.

Sally refused to use the restrooms at the theater.

**Jews Story**

V,P,I,W

**It seemed like Mr. Goldbloom deposited money in his account every day.**

It appeared as if Mr. Goldbloom made a deposit every day.  
Mr. Goldbloom had a lot of money in his bank account.  
Saul thought that Mr. Goldbloom withdrew too much money.

**Mrs. Goldbloom had some facial features that stood out.**

There was some facial feature that stood out on Mrs. Goldbloom.  
Mrs. Goldbloom had a large nose she wanted to fix.  
Mrs. Goldbloom want to lose some weight.

**Mrs. Goldbloom said she couldn't believe the price of fish.**

Mrs. Goldbloom said she couldn't believe how much fish cost.  
Mrs. Goldbloom was very stingy with their money.  
Mrs. Goldbloom was happy about the price of hamburger.

**As he kissed her hand, he noticed the ring she was wearing.**

He looked at the ring she was wearing as he kissed her hand  
As he kissed her hand, he saw her large engagement ring.  
As he kissed her cheek, he noticed she had changed her necklace.

**Mr. Goldbloom thought a little and gave him a price.**

Mr. Goldbloom thought a bit and told him a price.  
Mr. Goldbloom overcharged the man on the necklace.  
Mr. Goldbloom told the man the price of the ring.

**Mr. Goldbloom left what he thought was an appropriate tip.**

Mr. Goldbloom left what he felt was a reasonable tip.  
Mr. Goldbloom left a small tip, although he thought it was appropriate.  
Mr. Goldbloom forgot to leave a tip and felt guilty about it.

**His mother inquired when he was coming to visit next.**

His mother asked him when he was next coming to visit.  
His mother made him feel guilty about not visiting.  
His mother told him that she was coming out to visit.

**The two men agreed on which candidate they wanted to see win.**

The two men agreed on the candidate they hoped would win.  
The two men both hoped that the Democrat would win.  
The two men were happy to think that the election outcome was so clear.

**Mr. Goldbloom had David doing a bunch of busy work.**

David was doing a bunch of busy work for Mr. Goldbloom.  
A lot of chores needed to be done at work.  
Mr. Goldbloom let David go home early.

**They went to the new restaurant down on Duck Street.**

They went down to Duck Street to a new restaurant.

Mr. Goldbloom and Saul liked to try new restaurants.  
They went to a fast food restaurant down the block.

**Life was not always easy working at a jewelry shop.**

Working at a jewelry shop did not make life easy.  
There were so many facets to his job at the jewelry shop.  
His job at the jewelry shop was very easy.

**On the way to work Mr. Goldbloom turned on the radio.**

Mr. Goldbloom turned on the radio on the way to work.  
Mr. Goldbloom wanted to listen to the news on the radio.  
On the way to work Mr. Goldbloom listened to a CD.

**Mr. Goldbloom had recently hired the Cohen's boy, David.**

Recently, Mr. Goldbloom had hired David, the Cohen's boy.  
The Cohen's were friends of Mr. Goldbloom.  
Mr. Goldbloom wanted to fire his new assistant.

**Mr. Goldbloom showed the customer several items.**

Mr. Goldbloom showed several items to the customer.  
The customer had difficulty making up his mind.  
Mr. Goldbloom asked to customer to leave the store.

**Mr. Goldbloom took an umbrella from the closet.**

Mr. Goldbloom got an umbrella out of the closet.  
Mr. Goldbloom saw that it was raining outside.  
Mr. Goldbloom left the umbrella in the closet.

**Mr. Goldbloom fished a pack of gum out of his pocket.**

Mr. Goldbloom got some gum out of his pocket.  
Mr. Goldbloom didn't want to have bad breath at work.  
Mr. Goldbloom brushed his teeth after lunch.

**Mall Story**

V,P,I,W,V.

**Marcellus said he hadn't seen the ring.**

Marcellus claimed that he had not seen the ring.  
They had stolen the ring from the woman.  
Marcellus found the ring under the woman's shoe.

**Marcellus told Marcus to catch up.**

Marcus was told by Marcellus to catch up.  
Marcellus hollered at Marcus to catch up.  
Marcus caught up to the guys before they noticed he was missing.

**Reggie was complaining about not having enough money.**

Reggie complained that he did not have enough money.

Reggie and his family did not make much money.

Reggie was always loaded with lots of cash.

**The window was full of Marcus's favorite shoes.**

Marcus's favorite shoes filled the window.

The window was full of basketball sneakers.

The window was full of sweaters.

**Marcellus started singing the song.**

Marcellus began singing the tune.

Marcellus was singing a rap song.

Marcellus had never heard of the song before.

**He said that Anton always had the best stuff.**

He said that the stuff Anton had was always the best.

Reggie thought that Anton had the best drugs.

Reggie hated Anton because he never had anything.

**Leroy told the mall security guard what he thought.**

Leroy told what he thought to the mall security guard.

Leroy threatened the mall security guard.

Leroy ignored the mall security guard.

**Marcellus said that Anton was going to be gone for a long time.**

Marcellus said that Anton would be away for a long time.

Marcellus said that Anton was in jail for stealing the car.

Marcellus said that Anton was around all the time.

**They all waved and said "Hi!"**

They all said "Hi!" and waved.

They all liked their school principal.

They all tried to hide from their school principal.

**That is, if you didn't count the superhighway.**

That is, if you didn't include the freeway.

The superhighway was more crowded than the mall.

The mall was very empty today.

**Leroy grinned when he heard the tune.**

Leroy smiled when he heard the tune.

Leroy recognized the tune Marcus was humming.

Leroy scowled when he heard the tune.

**As he was running, Marcus dropped something.**

Marcus dropped something as he was running.

Marcus's running jostled his pencil loose.

Marcus re-joined the group very slowly.

**They were passing by a crowd at the food court.**

At the food court they were going by a crowd.

The food court was in the middle of the mall.

They avoided going by the food court.

**They often came to this mall.**

They came to this mall often.

They liked being at this mall.

They rarely came to this mall.

**He hoped that Reggie wouldn't bring up his cousin Danae.**

He hoped that Reggie wouldn't bring up Danae, his cousin.

Marcellus was embarrassed by his cousin Danae's arrest.

Marcellus wanted to talk about his cousin Danae.

**He said that Marcellus should keep his day job.**

He told Marcellus the he should keep his day job.

Leroy thought that Marcellus's singing was terrible.

Leroy told Marcellus he should get a job as a singer.