O. Henry

O. Henry was the pen name of William Sydney Porter (1862-1910), one of the _____ famous of American short story writers. He was the son of a doctor, but led an unsettled life in his early years, working successively as his father dispenser, a Texas ranch hand and a bank cashier. In his last employment he was accused _____ embezzlement _____ bank funds. He fled to South America to escape arrest, but returned on hearing that his wife was ill. He was arrested and _____ to five years in prison. On his release he lived in extreme poverty in New York, drinking heavily and writing short stories to support himself. He died _____ consumption.

Although his life was a tragic _____, it gave him a profound knowledge _____ human character, especially of dwellers in big cities who are unfortunate _____ life. _____ a story-teller, he is remarkable _____ his ingenuity in the use of ironical coincidences and for his skilful plots. In 1918 the American Society of Letters honoured his name _____ founding the O. Henry Memorial Award, _____ gives an annual prize for the best American short story.

LIVEWORKSHEETS