

James Thurber Writings Drawings Including The Sec Full Version

James Thurber writings drawings including the sec are a testament to his multifaceted talent as a writer and humorist. Thurber's work seamlessly blends witty storytelling with his distinctive illustrations, creating a unique literary and artistic style that continues to influence humor and cartooning today. His contributions span decades, encompassing magazine articles, short stories, cartoons, and illustrations that have become classics of American humor. Understanding Thurber's writings and drawings offers insights into his clever worldview, his mastery of satire, and his ability to capture the human condition with both humor and empathy.

Introduction to James Thurber

James Thurber (1894-1961) was an American author, humorist, and illustrator renowned for his sharp wit and satirical style. His work often focused on everyday life, human follies, and the quirks of human nature, making his stories both humorous and relatable.

Key aspects of Thurber's legacy include:

- His prolific contributions to The New Yorker magazine
- His distinctive illustrative style
- His mastery of humorous storytelling

Thurber's writings and drawings are intertwined; his illustrations complement and enhance his narratives, making them more engaging and memorable.

Overview of Thurber's Writings

Thurber's writings are characterized by their wit, humor, and keen social observation. His stories often feature humorous takes on relationships, work, and societal norms.

Major Themes in Thurber's Writings

- Humor in the Ordinary: Thurber found comedy in everyday situations, from domestic life to office environments.
- Satire and Social Critique: Many stories critique societal expectations and human flaws.

- Nostalgia and Reflection: His work often reflects a nostalgic view of American life, infused with gentle satire.

Notable Works

- The Thirteen Clocks (a humorous fantasy novel)
- The White Deer (short stories)
- The Thurber Carnival (a collection of his writings and illustrations)
- Fables for Our Time (short humorous fables)
- The Wonderful O (a humorous tale with allegorical themes)

Thurber's Drawings and Illustrations

Thurber's illustrations are iconic, characterized by simple yet expressive line work. His drawings often serve as visual punchlines or add depth to his stories.

Style and Techniques

- Minimalist line drawings with expressive characters
- Use of humor and satire within the illustrations
- Often monochromatic, emphasizing form and expression
- Integration of illustrations with text for maximum effect

Role of Drawings in Thurber's Work

- Enhancing Humor: Visual gags complement the written humor.
- Characterization: Drawings bring his characters to life, highlighting their personalities.
- Storytelling: Illustrations often serve as narrative devices, sometimes adding ironic or humorous commentary.

The Significance of "The Sec" in Thurber's Work

One of the most intriguing aspects of Thurber's work is his use of the term "the sec", which appears in several stories and cartoons. While the phrase might seem obscure, it holds a special place in Thurber's satirical universe.

Understanding "The Sec" in Context

- "The Sec" as a satirical device: Thurber often used "the sec" as a humorous shorthand for a secret, a second opinion, or an elusive element in social interactions.
- In stories and cartoons: "The sec" could represent a hidden truth or an ironic twist, emphasizing the gap between appearances and reality.

Examples of "The Sec" in Thurber's Writings

- In some stories, "the sec" is a punchline, revealing an absurd or humorous secret.
- In cartoons, "the sec" may appear as a caption or dialogue, adding a layer of satire.

Note: While "the sec" is not a widely recognized term outside Thurber's work, it exemplifies his playful use of language and his talent for creating layered humor.

Impact and Legacy of Thurber's Writings and Drawings

Thurber's unique combination of writing and illustration set a new standard for humor and satire in American literature.

Influence on Modern Humor and Cartooning

- Inspired generations of cartoonists and humorists
- Pioneered the integration of visual and textual humor
- His style influenced comic strips and satirical magazines

Recognition and Honors

- Thurber received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1959
- His work has been preserved in major museums and literary collections
- The Thurber House in Columbus, Ohio, continues to promote his legacy

Continued Relevance

- Thurber's insights into human nature remain timeless
- His humor continues to resonate in contemporary culture
- His drawings are celebrated for their simplicity and wit

Conclusion

James Thurber writings drawings including the sec showcase a masterful blend of humor, satire, and artistic expression that has captivated audiences for generations. His ability to capture the absurdities of everyday life through clever storytelling and minimalist illustrations makes his work enduringly relevant. Whether exploring the complexities of human relationships or satirizing societal norms, Thurber's work remains a cornerstone of American humor. Through his writings and drawings, Thurber not only entertained but also offered a subtle critique of the world, encouraging us to find humor in the ordinary and to appreciate the quirks that make us human.

Explore More of Thurber's Work

- Read collections like *The Thurber Carnival* and *Fables for Our Time*
- View his iconic cartoons in museums and online archives
- Visit the Thurber House for exhibitions and educational programs
- Analyze his use of language, especially the playful term "the sec," to deepen appreciation of his satire

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- James Thurber writings and drawings
- Thurber's illustrations
- Thurber humor and satire
- The Thurber Carnival
- Thurber House Ohio
- Thurber's influence on humor
- "The sec" in Thurber's work
- American cartoonists and humorists

By exploring Thurber's writings and drawings, enthusiasts and new readers alike can discover a treasure trove of wit, wisdom, and artistic brilliance that continues to inspire and entertain decades after his passing.

James Thurber: Writings, Drawings, and His Enduring Legacy

James Thurber stands as one of the most distinctive and influential figures in 20th-century American humor and illustration. Renowned for his wit, satire, and unique artistic style, Thurber's multifaceted career spanned writing, drawing, and editing, making him a pivotal contributor to the American literary and visual landscape. His work reflects a sharp, often whimsical observation of human nature, combined with a deftness in both language and illustration that continues to resonate with audiences today.

Early Life and Artistic Foundations

James Grover Thurber was born in 1894 in Columbus, Ohio. His early years were marked by a keen interest in storytelling and art, nurtured by a childhood that included frequent visits to the Columbus Museum of Art and a natural talent for drawing. Thurber's formative years were also shaped by the social and cultural upheavals of the early 20th century, which infused his later work with a sense of irony and skepticism.

His education at Ohio State University and subsequent work as a journalist laid the groundwork for his narrative style and comic sensibilities. Thurber's early illustrations, often humorous caricatures, showcased his innate ability to blend visual wit with narrative punchlines—an approach that would become a hallmark of his career.

Literary Contributions

Humor and Short Stories

Thurber's writing is characterized by its subtle wit, dry humor, and keen insights into the absurdities of everyday life. His short stories, published in prominent magazines such as *The New Yorker*, often depict the humorous foibles of ordinary Americans, especially those of the middle class. Some notable aspects include:

- Themes of Anxiety and Human Folly: Thurber's stories frequently explore themes of insecurity, marriage, and social pretensions, often with a humorous twist that exposes the fragility of human ego.
- Narrative Style: His prose is marked by conversational tone, clever wordplay, and a tendency toward the anecdotal, making his stories accessible yet profound.
- Iconic Works: Collections such as *The Thurber Carnival* (1937) and *My Life and Hard Times* (1933) compile many of his best stories, offering a panoramic view of his humor and worldview.

Essays and Critiques

Beyond storytelling, Thurber penned essays that provided sharp social commentary. His essays often combined humor with critique, targeting everything from politics to cultural trends. His satirical voice was both humorous and incisive, reflecting his skepticism of authority and societal pretensions.

Drawing and Illustration: A Visual Signature

Distinctive Artistic Style

Thurber's drawings are instantly recognizable for their simple, expressive line work and humorous tone. His illustrations often feature exaggerated characters, whimsical scenes, and a keen eye for the comic potential of human expressions. His style was characterized by:

- Minimalism: Thurber's drawings relied on sparse lines that captured the essence of a character or scene with economy and precision.
- Expressiveness: Despite their simplicity, his illustrations conveyed complex emotions ranging from joy and surprise to despair and confusion.
- Humor and Satire: Many of his drawings serve as visual punchlines, enhancing his written humor and sometimes standing alone as standalone satire.

His illustrations adorned many of his own stories in *The New Yorker*, helping to define the magazine's visual identity and influence generations of cartoonists.

Notable Works and Themes in His Drawings

Thurber's illustrations often depicted:

- Domestic scenes: humorous portrayals of family life and relationships.
- Animal caricatures: animals with human characteristics, often amplifying their absurdities.
- Social satire: visual commentary on societal norms, pretensions, and political issues.

Some of his most famous illustrations include those for his stories about "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," which depict the mundane yet fantastical inner worlds of an ordinary man.

The Sec and Thurber's Broader Impact

The Thurber Society and Continued Influence

The Thurber Society, established in the late 20th century, celebrates his legacy by promoting appreciation of his work through exhibitions, publications, and educational programs. Thurber's influence extends beyond literature and art into popular culture, inspiring writers, cartoonists, and comedians.

Thurber and the New Yorker

Thurber's long association with *The New Yorker* magazine (from 1927 until his death in 1961) was instrumental in shaping the magazine's reputation for sophisticated, humorous, and often satirical content. His dual role as a writer and illustrator made him a pioneer in the integration of visual and

verbal humor.

- Innovations in Magazine Humor: Thurber's illustrations complemented his stories, setting a standard for visual storytelling that many magazines emulate.
- Influence on Cartooning: His style influenced generations of cartoonists, including notable figures like Shel Silverstein and Charles Addams.

Thematic and Artistic Legacy

Thurber's work remains relevant for its universal themes and timeless humor. His ability to find humor in the mundane, alongside a gentle critique of societal pretensions, offers insights into human nature that continue to resonate.

Critical Reception and Academic Analysis

Thurber's work has been extensively studied and critiqued, with scholars highlighting his mastery of irony, satire, and visual storytelling. Critics praise his:

- Humor as a Reflection of Humanity: Thurber's ability to balance humor with empathy makes his work both entertaining and insightful.
- Innovative Artistic Approach: His minimalist drawing style challenged traditional notions of illustration, emphasizing wit and expression over detail.
- Cultural Commentary: His stories and drawings serve as a mirror to American society in the early to mid-20th century, often critiquing its pretensions and contradictions.

Academic analyses often explore Thurber's work as a form of social satire that combines literary and visual elements, emphasizing his role in shaping modern American humor.

Conclusion: A Lasting Legacy

James Thurber's writings and drawings form a cohesive body of work that exemplifies the power of humor and illustration to reflect and critique society. His distinctive voice—both verbal and visual—has cemented his place as a pioneer in American cultural history. Whether through the humorous escapades of Walter Mitty, the sharp wit of his essays, or the minimalist yet expressive lines of his cartoons, Thurber continues to influence and entertain generations, reminding us that humor, when paired with insight, can be both delightful and profound.

His legacy endures in the continued celebration of his work, the ongoing influence on cartooning and humor writing, and the universal appeal of his keen observations on the human condition.

Thurber's unique blend of words and images remains a testament to the enduring power of wit and artistry in capturing the complexities of everyday life.

Question Answer Who was James Thurber and what is he best known for? James Thurber was an American author, humorist, journalist, and cartoonist best known for his short stories, essays, and his distinctive drawings that often featured humorous illustrations of everyday life. What types of writings did James Thurber produce? Thurber's writings include short stories, essays, and humorous articles, often characterized by wit, satire, and observations on human nature and society. How did James Thurber incorporate drawings into his writings? Thurber famously integrated his own humorous drawings into his stories and essays, using cartoons and sketches to complement and enhance the comedic effect of his written work. What is 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' and how does it relate to Thurber's work? 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' is one of Thurber's most famous short stories, featuring a meek man who escapes his mundane life through vivid daydreams, often illustrated with Thurber's own drawings. What role did the 'SEC' play in James Thurber's career or artwork? While the 'SEC' is not directly related to Thurber's personal work, it may refer to his contributions to publications like The New Yorker, which was closely monitored by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) during its early years for financial transparency, or it could be a misinterpretation. Thurber's work was primarily focused on humor and satire rather than financial themes. Are James Thurber's drawings considered influential in the world of cartooning? Yes, Thurber's distinctive cartoon style and his ability to blend humor with simple yet expressive sketches have had a lasting influence on American cartooning and comic art. Where can I find collections of James Thurber's writings and drawings today? Thurber's works are available in numerous collections, including 'The Thurber Carnival,' and his original drawings can be viewed in museums dedicated to his work, such as the James Thurber House in Columbus, Ohio. What themes are most prominent in Thurber's writings and drawings? Themes of everyday life, human folly, humor, satire, and the absurdities of modern society are prominent in Thurber's writings and illustrations. How has James Thurber's work remained relevant in contemporary humor and illustration? Thurber's sharp wit, keen observations, and humorous drawings continue to resonate today, influencing modern comedians, writers, and cartoonists who appreciate his ability to find humor in the mundane and the universal aspects of human nature.

Related keywords: James Thurber, Thurber writings, Thurber drawings, The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, Thurber humor, Thurber cartoons, Thurber illustrations, Thurber essays, Thurber humorist, Thurber literary works

Jesse james jesse james western bank robber legend

Jesse James Jesse James Western Bank Robber Legend

Jesse James is undeniably one of the most iconic and enduring figures of the American Old West. His name is synonymous with outlawry, daring bank and train robberies, and the birth of the legendary American outlaw mythos. The phrase "Jesse James Western bank robber legend" encapsulates the complex persona of a man who has been both vilified and romanticized over generations. This article explores his life, criminal exploits, the myth surrounding him, and his lasting influence on Western folklore.

The Life of Jesse James

Early Years and Background

Jesse Woodson James was born on September 5, 1847, in Clay County, Missouri. Growing up in a turbulent pre-Civil War era, Jesse's early life was shaped by the violence and political conflicts of the time. His family was deeply involved in the Confederate cause during the Civil War, which heavily influenced his views and actions.

The Civil War and Its Impact

During the Civil War, Jesse and his brother Frank James joined Confederate guerrilla groups, engaging in hit-and-run tactics against Union forces. The brutal guerrilla warfare left a lasting impression on Jesse, fueling his disdain for Union authorities and setting him on a path of rebellion.

Rise as a Notorious Outlaw

Forming the James-Younger Gang

After the Civil War, Jesse James turned to a life of crime, forming the infamous James-Younger Gang with his brother Frank James, and the Younger brothers. Their goal was to seek revenge and financial gain through daring robberies.

- Robbery of banks and trains
- Engagement in shootouts with law enforcement
- Fleeing across the Midwest

Famous Robberies and Feats

Jesse James and his gang became notorious for their bold heists. Some of their most famous exploits include:

- The robbery of the First National Bank in Liberty, Missouri (1869)
- The ill-fated raid on the Platte County Savings Association (1873)
- The robbery of the Kansas Pacific Railroad's trains (late 1800s)

These acts cemented Jesse James's reputation as a daring and elusive outlaw, capable of outsmarting law enforcement at every turn.

The Myth and Legend of Jesse James

Media Portrayal and Public Perception

The legend of Jesse James grew largely due to sensationalized media coverage and the romanticization of the outlaw in dime novels, newspapers, and folktales. He was often depicted as a Robin Hood-like figure, battling against corrupt banks, railroads, and government officials.

- Portrayal as a Robin Hood figure
- Sympathies from the common folk
- Depictions in popular culture as a heroic outlaw

Outlaw or Robin Hood?

While some believed Jesse James was fighting for the common man, others pointed to the violence and chaos his gang caused. His reputation as a "gentleman outlaw" was a carefully cultivated myth, often exaggerated by supporters and media.

Impact on American Folklore

Jesse James became a symbol of rebellion and the Wild West spirit. His daring escapes, gunfights, and outlaw persona have inspired countless stories, movies, and books, cementing his place in American folklore.

Decline and Death

The End of Jesse James

Jesse James's criminal career waned in the late 1800s as law enforcement became more organized and his notoriety grew. His death on April 3, 1882, marked the end of an era.

The Assassination

Jesse was shot in the back by Robert Ford, a member of his own gang who hoped to claim a reward and gain notoriety. Ford's betrayal is one of the most infamous moments in outlaw history.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Despite his death, Jesse James's legend persisted. He became a symbol of rebellion, the archetype of the Western outlaw, and a subject of ongoing fascination.

The Continuing Influence of Jesse James

In Popular Culture

Jesse James's life story has been adapted into countless movies, television shows, and books. Notable portrayals include:

- "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" (2007 film)
- Classic Western novels and stories
- Musical and theatrical adaptations

Historical Reassessment

Modern historians often reevaluate Jesse James's life, balancing his criminal acts with his complex motives and the socio-political context of post-Civil War America. His story reflects themes of rebellion, justice, and myth-making.

Conclusion

The legend of Jesse James remains a captivating chapter of American history. As a western bank robber and outlaw, his daring exploits and rebellious spirit have left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape. Whether viewed as a villain or a folk hero, Jesse James embodies the rugged, rebellious, and often contradictory nature of the American West. His story continues to inspire stories, films, and debates, ensuring his place as a legendary figure in the pantheon of Western folklore.

Jesse James: The Legend of the Western Bank Robber

Jesse James stands as one of the most iconic and enduring figures in the history of the American West. His name conjures images of daring bank robberies, outlaw bravado, and a complex legacy that blurs the lines between villain and folk hero. As a legendary figure of the late 19th century, Jesse James's life and deeds continue to fascinate historians, writers, and popular culture

enthusiasts alike. This article delves into the life of Jesse James, exploring his rise to notoriety, the myth surrounding his persona, and the lasting impact of his legend on American history.

The Origins and Early Life of Jesse James

Background and Family Roots

Jesse Woodson James was born on September 5, 1847, in Clay County, Missouri. Coming from a family deeply rooted in the American frontier, Jesse's childhood was shaped by the tumultuous atmosphere of the Civil War era. His father, Robert James, was a Baptist minister and farmer, while his mother, Zerelda, was known for her strong personality and influence. The James family's sympathies leaned toward the Confederate side, which played a significant role in shaping Jesse's worldview and subsequent actions.

Growing Up Amid Conflict

The Civil War's brutal skirmishes and partisan hostilities left an indelible mark on Jesse and his brother Frank. Their hometown became a battleground, and the violence they witnessed fueled Jesse's anti-establishment sentiments. The trauma of war and the loss of family members fostered a sense of grievance and rebellion that would later manifest in Jesse's outlaw activities.

The Rise of Jesse James as an Outlaw

From Family Tragedy to Outlaw Life

Following the assassination of their father by Union soldiers, Jesse and Frank James turned their grief into defiance. They initially engaged in minor acts of violence and theft, but over time, their criminal activities escalated into bank robberies, train holdups, and stagecoach ambushes. Jesse's charisma and daring nature made him a natural leader among outlaws, and he quickly gained notoriety.

Notable Robberies and Criminal Acts

Jesse James and his gang became infamous for their daring heists, often targeting banks and trains across Missouri and neighboring states. Some of the most notable include:

- The First National Bank of Lexington (1869)
- The Platte City Train Robbery (1871)
- The Northfield Raid (1876), which ended in a massacre and the disbandment of the

James-Younger Gang

Public Perception and Media Coverage

During his lifetime, Jesse James was a polarizing figure. To some, he was a Robin Hood-like hero fighting against corrupt authorities and wealthy bankers. To others, he was a ruthless criminal responsible for violence and chaos. The media of the time sensationalized his exploits, transforming him into a legendary figure whose myth grew with each story.

The Legend of Jesse James

Myth vs. Reality

The legend of Jesse James has become a tapestry woven from fact, embellishment, and outright myth. While he was undoubtedly a criminal, his persona as a daring, almost romantic outlaw has been romanticized over the decades. Popular stories depict him as a Robin Hood figure, although historical evidence suggests that his motivations were often driven by personal greed and revenge rather than altruism.

The Folk Hero Archetype

Jesse James embodies the archetype of the rebellious outsider who defies authority. His daring escapes, charismatic leadership, and defiance of the law have cemented his status as a folk hero in American culture. Songs, movies, and literature have perpetuated this image, transforming him into a symbol of resistance against oppression.

The End of Jesse James and His Legacy

The Assassination and Aftermath

Jesse James's life came to a violent end on April 3, 1882, when he was shot in the back by Robert Ford, a member of his own gang seeking a reward. His death shocked the nation and marked the end of an era of outlaws who roamed the American frontier.

Posthumous Popularity and Cultural Impact

Following his death, Jesse James's legend only grew. He became the subject of countless stories, films, and books that romanticized his life and exploits. His image as a charismatic outlaw has persisted into modern times, influencing portrayals in Hollywood and popular culture.

Historical Assessments and Reappraisals

Historians continue to debate Jesse James's true nature. Some view him as a product of a turbulent

time, driven by personal loss and social upheaval. Others see him as a criminal who exploited the myth of the Robin Hood figure for personal gain. Modern scholarship emphasizes understanding the context of his actions rather than solely glorifying or vilifying him.

Pros and Cons of Jesse James's Legend

Pros:

- Embodies the spirit of rebellion and resistance
- Inspires stories of heroism and daring
- Serves as a cultural symbol of the American frontier

Cons:

- Responsible for violence, injury, and death
- Engaged in criminal activities that caused hardship
- The myth can overshadow the real human costs of his actions

Features of Jesse James's Legend

- Daring Robberies: Known for bold and well-executed bank and train robberies
- Charismatic Leader: Led a gang with loyalty and strategic acumen
- Robin Hood Myth: Often portrayed as fighting against corrupt authority and aiding the common people, despite limited evidence
- Cultural Icon: Subject of countless songs, films, and stories that romanticize his persona
- Complex Legacy: A figure who embodies both criminality and rebellious virtue

Conclusion

Jesse James remains one of the most compelling figures in American history, embodying the mythic qualities of the outlaw frontier. His life story reflects the turbulence of post-Civil War America and the enduring fascination with figures who challenge authority. While the truth of his deeds is intertwined with myth, his impact on American culture is undeniable. As a legend, Jesse James continues to symbolize rebellion, adventure, and the complex nature of heroism and villainy in the Old West.

His legacy prompts us to consider the stories we tell about outlaws: are they villains, heroes, or something more nuanced? Ultimately, Jesse James's story is a testament to the power of myth and the enduring human fascination with the rebellious spirit that helped shape the American frontier.

QuestionAnswer Who was Jesse James and why is he considered a legendary figure in the American West? Jesse James was a notorious outlaw and bank robber in the American West during the late 19th century. He became a legendary figure due to his daring heists, charismatic persona, and status as a Robin Hood-like figure in popular culture, symbolizing the rebellious spirit of the frontier. What are some of the most famous bank robberies attributed to Jesse James? Jesse James is famously associated with the 1875 robbery of the Platte City Bank in Missouri and the 1876 robbery of the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota. These heists contributed to his reputation as a daring and skilled outlaw. Was Jesse James really a Robin Hood figure, or was he primarily motivated by greed? While some legends depict Jesse James as a Robin Hood figure who stole from the rich to help the poor, historical evidence suggests that he was mainly driven by greed and personal gain, though his actions were sometimes intertwined with political motives. How did Jesse James's criminal activities influence the perception of outlaws in American history? Jesse James's criminal activities, combined with his charismatic persona, helped shape the myth of the rugged outlaw hero in American folklore. His story contributed to the romanticized view of outlaws as rebels fighting against corrupt institutions, influencing popular culture for generations. What role did Jesse James's gang play in the broader context of Western criminal enterprises? Jesse James's gang was one of the most notorious criminal groups of the American West, engaging in bank and train robberies, and sometimes aligning with other outlaws. Their activities reflected the lawlessness of the frontier era and the challenges faced by law enforcement. Did Jesse James have any involvement with political movements or causes? Jesse James was associated with Confederate guerrilla activities during the Civil War and later expressed anti-establishment sentiments. Some believe his actions were influenced by his Confederate sympathies, though his primary motivations were criminal. What ultimately led to Jesse James's death, and how did it impact his legendary status? Jesse James was assassinated in 1882 by Robert Ford, a member of his own gang seeking a reward. His death marked the end of his criminal career and cemented his legend as an iconic, tragic outlaw whose story continues to captivate audiences. How have movies and popular culture depicted Jesse James and his legend? Jesse James has been portrayed in numerous films, TV shows, and books as a romanticized outlaw hero, emphasizing his daring exploits and rebellious spirit. These portrayals often blend fact and fiction, reinforcing his status as a Western legend. Are there any misconceptions or myths about Jesse James that persist today? Yes, many myths persist, such as the idea that Jesse James was a Robin Hood figure or that he never killed anyone. In reality, he was involved in violent crimes, and some stories have been exaggerated or romanticized over time to enhance his legendary status.

Related keywords: Jesse James, outlaw, western, bank robber, train heist, legendary outlaw, Missouri, Jesse James gang, Old West, outlaw legend

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