

The Cloze Procedure

Ethan Frome

If you know Starkfield, Massachusetts, you know the post-office. If you know the post-office you must have seen Ethan Frome drive up to it, drop the reins _____ his hollow-backed bay and _____ himself across the _____ pavement to the white _____: and you must have _____ who he was.

It was there that, _____ years ago, I saw _____ for the first time; _____ the sight pulled me up sharp. Even then he _____ the most striking figure _____ Starkfield, though he was _____ the ruin of a _____. It was not so _____ his great height that _____ him, for the “natives” _____ easily singled out by _____ lank longitude from the _____ foreign breed: it was _____ careless powerful look he _____, in spite of a _____ checking each step like _____ jerk of a chain. _____ was something bleak and _____ in his face, and _____ was so stiffened and _____ that I took him _____ an old man and _____ surprised to hear that _____ was not more than _____ -two. I had this _____ Harmon Gow, who had _____ the stage from Bettsbridge _____ Starkfield in pre-trolley days _____ knew the chronicle of _____ the families on his _____.

“He’s looked that way _____ since he had his _____; and that’s twenty-four _____ ago come next February,” _____ threw out between reminiscent _____.

The “smash-up” it was- _____ gathered from the same _____ - which, besides drawing the _____ gash across Ethan Frome’s _____, had so shortened and _____ his right side that _____ cost him a visible _____ to take the few _____ from his buggy to _____ post-office window. He used _____ drive in from his _____ every day at about _____