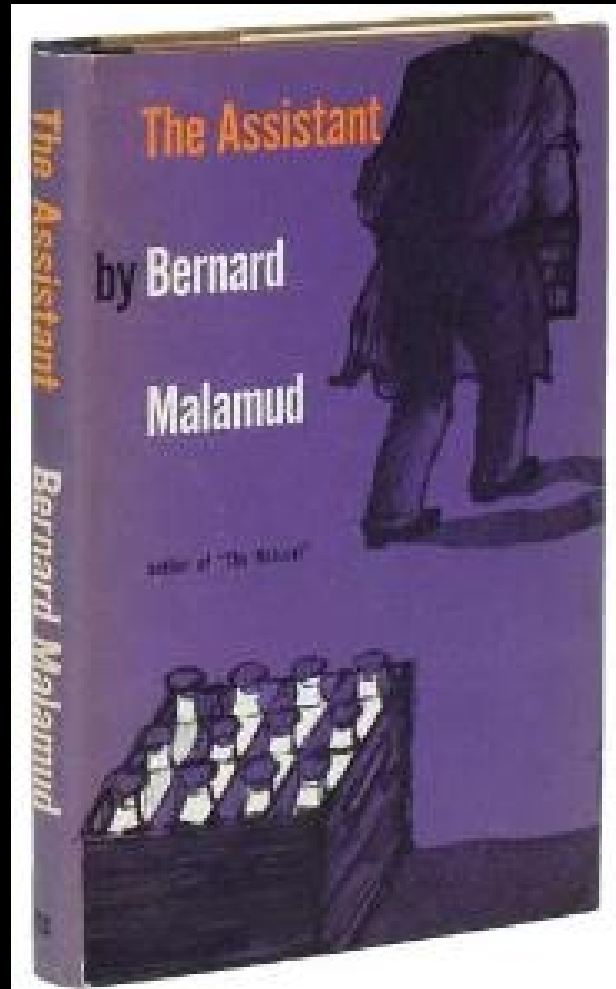


The Assistant (1957)



An American drifter finds the meaning of his life in a small New York grocery store.



The Author, Bernard Malamud



Bernard Malamud in 1949. [View image on Commons](#)

The Author, Bernard Malamud

■ 1914 - 1986



Bernard Malamud in 1949. [View image on Commons](#)

The Author, Bernard Malamud

- 1914 – 1986
- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize



Bernard Malamud in 1949. [View image on Commons](#)

The Author, Bernard Malamud

- 1914 – 1986
- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
- Often compared with Saul Bellow and Phillip Roth



Bernard Malamud in 1949. www.bernard Malamud.com

The Author, Bernard Malamud

- 1914 – 1986
- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
- Often compared with Saul Bellow and Phillip Roth
- Wrote about social issues: rootlessness, abuse, divorce



Bernard Malamud in 1949. www.bernard Malamud.com

The Author, Bernard Malamud

- 1914 – 1986
- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
- Often compared with Saul Bellow and Phillip Roth
- Wrote about social issues: rootlessness, abuse, divorce
- Love is redemptive



Bernard Malamud in 1949. www.bernardmalamud.com

Frank Alpine



Frank Alpine



- A drifter, a liar, a thief, and a rapist—how can he be a hero?

Frank Alpine



- A drifter, a liar, a thief, and a rapist—how can he be a hero?
- How is Frank a religious pilgrim?

Frank Alpine



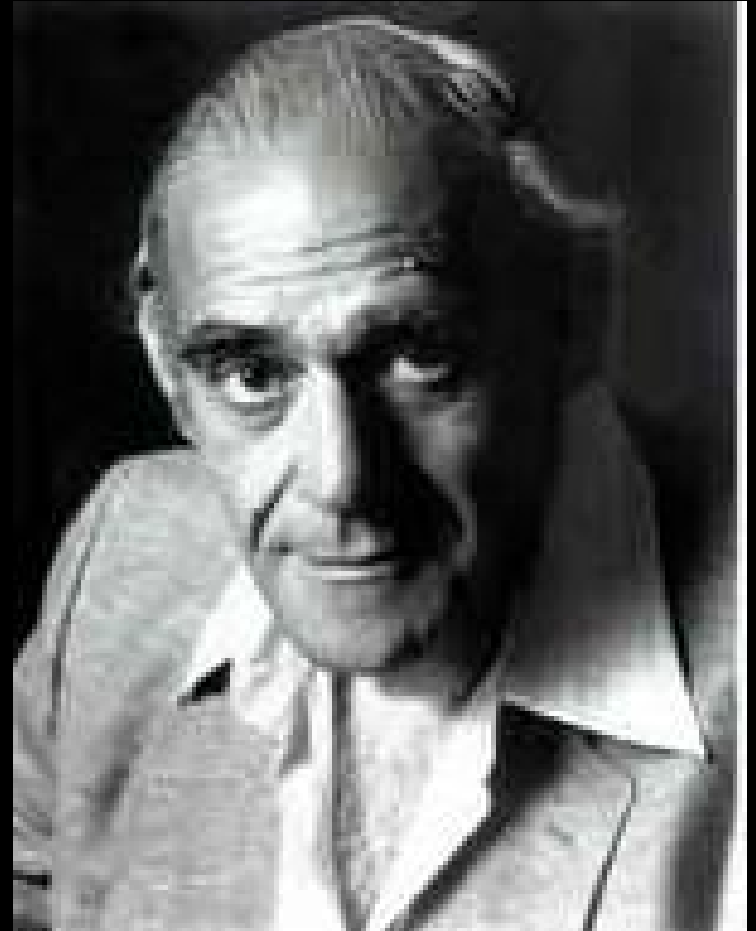
- A drifter, a liar, a thief, and a rapist—how can he be a hero?
- How is Frank a religious pilgrim?
- What symbolism can we attach to him?

Frank Alpine



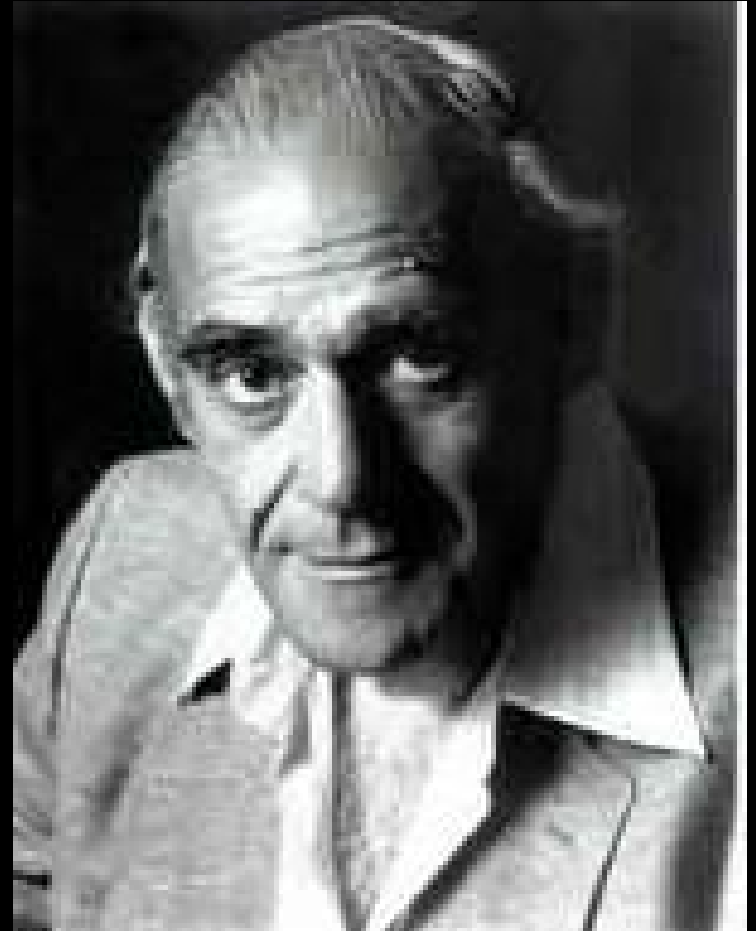
- A drifter, a liar, a thief, and a rapist—how can he be a hero?
- How is Frank a religious pilgrim?
- What symbolism can we attach to him?
- Why does he become Jewish?

Morris Bober



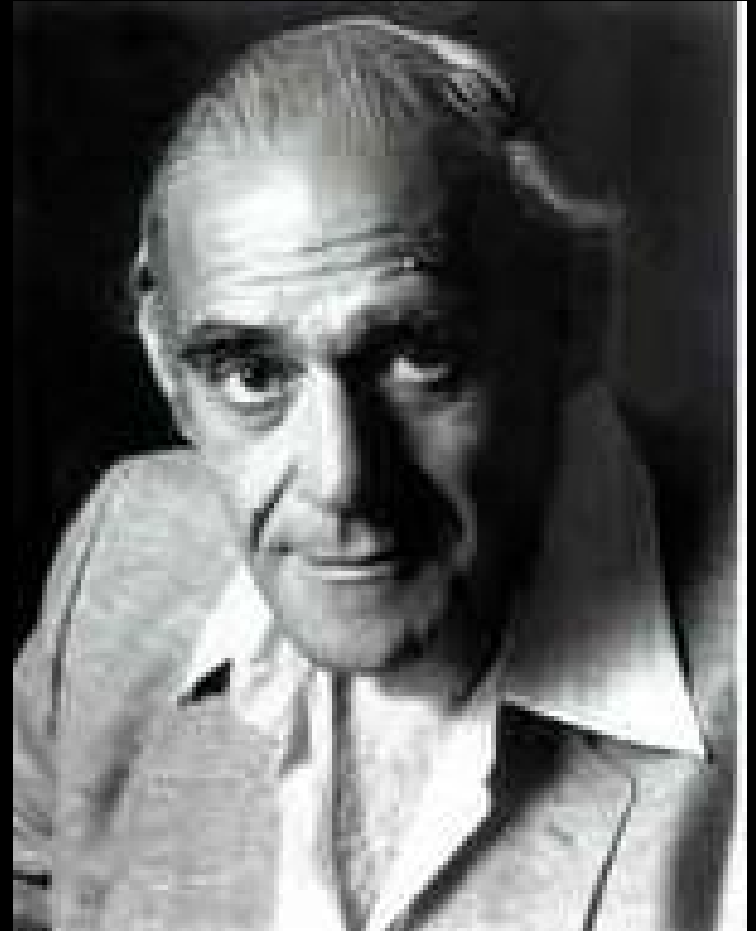
Morris Bober

- How is Morris an exemplar?



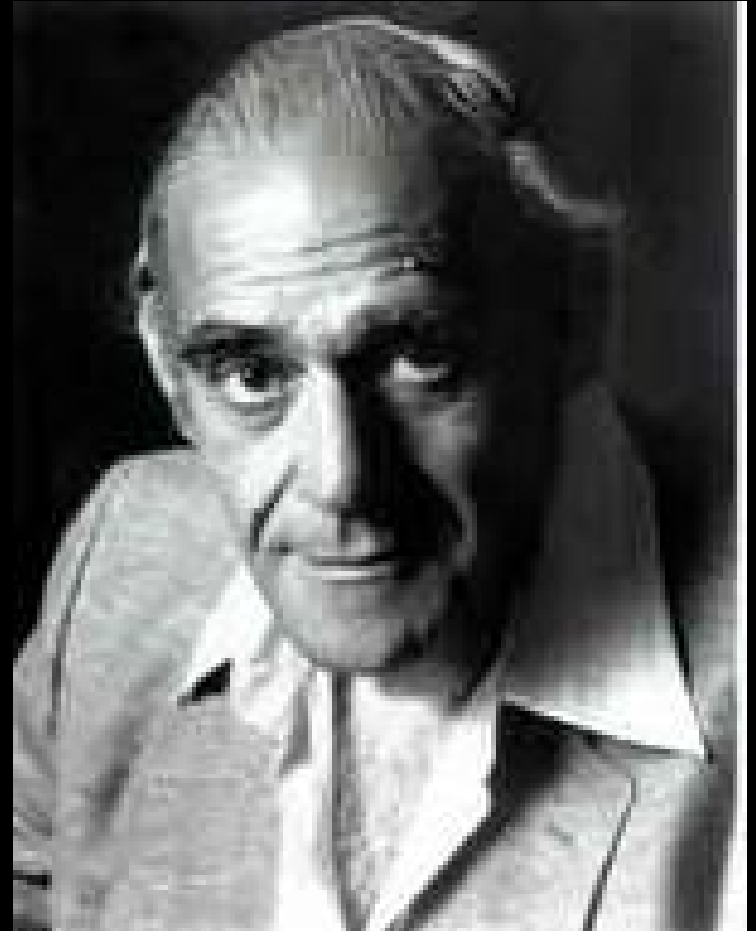
Morris Bober

- How is Morris an exemplar?
- Elie Wiesel: "To be a Jew...is to suffer for a *purpose*." Valid?



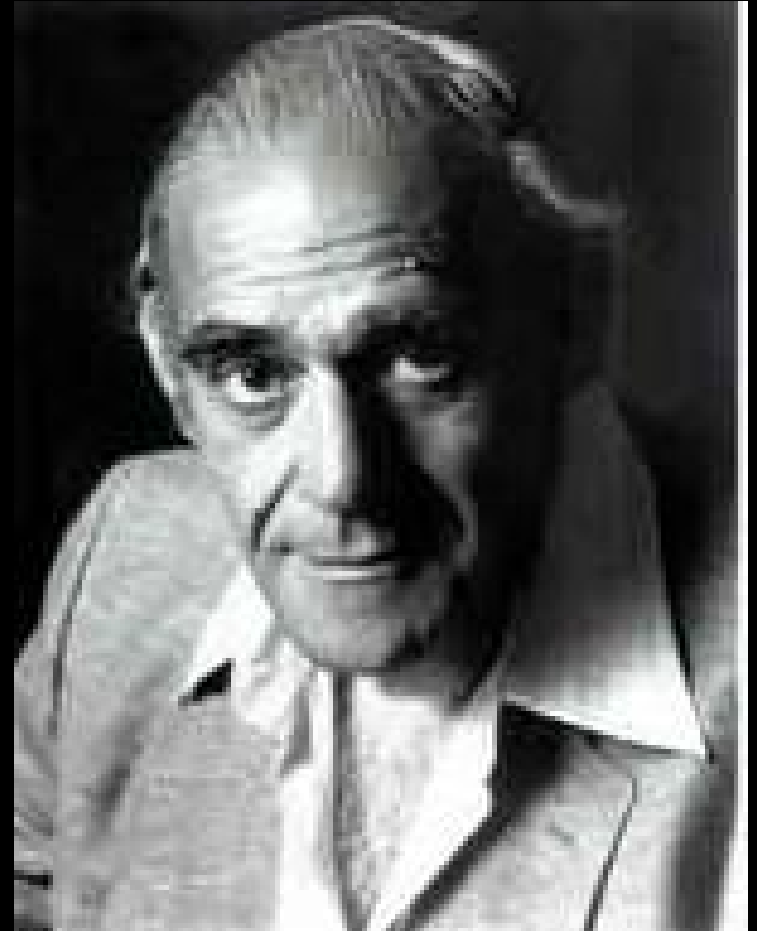
Morris Bober

- How is Morris an exemplar?
- Elie Wiesel: "To be a Jew...is to suffer for a *purpose*." Valid?



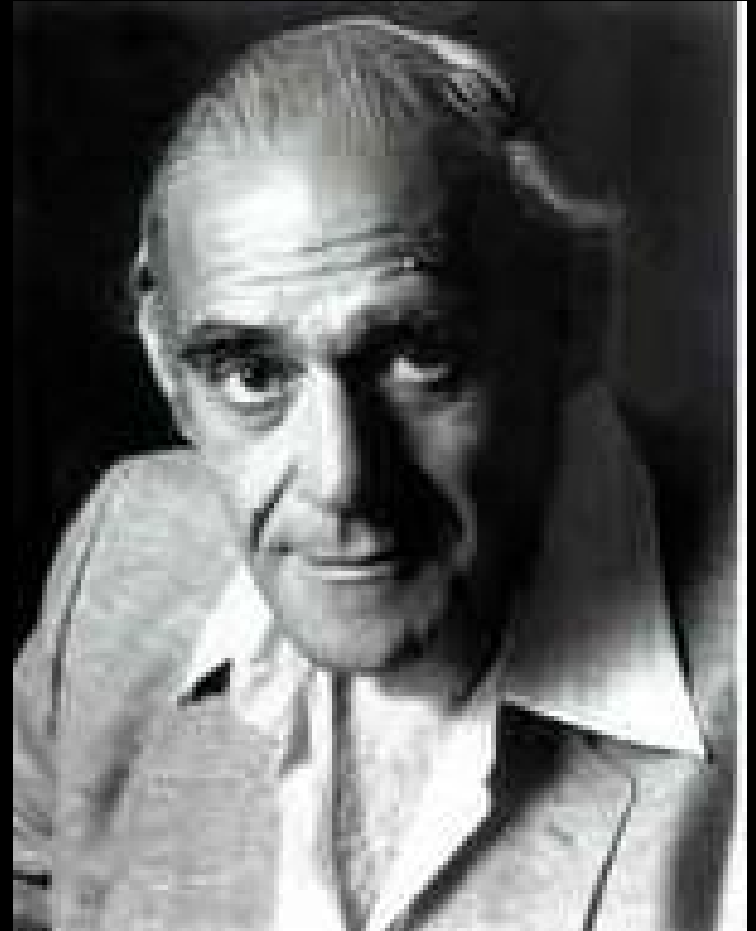
Morris Bober

- How is Morris an exemplar?
- Elie Wiesel: "To be a Jew...is to suffer for a *purpose*." Valid?
- The American Dream: a failure? What's Morris' attitude?



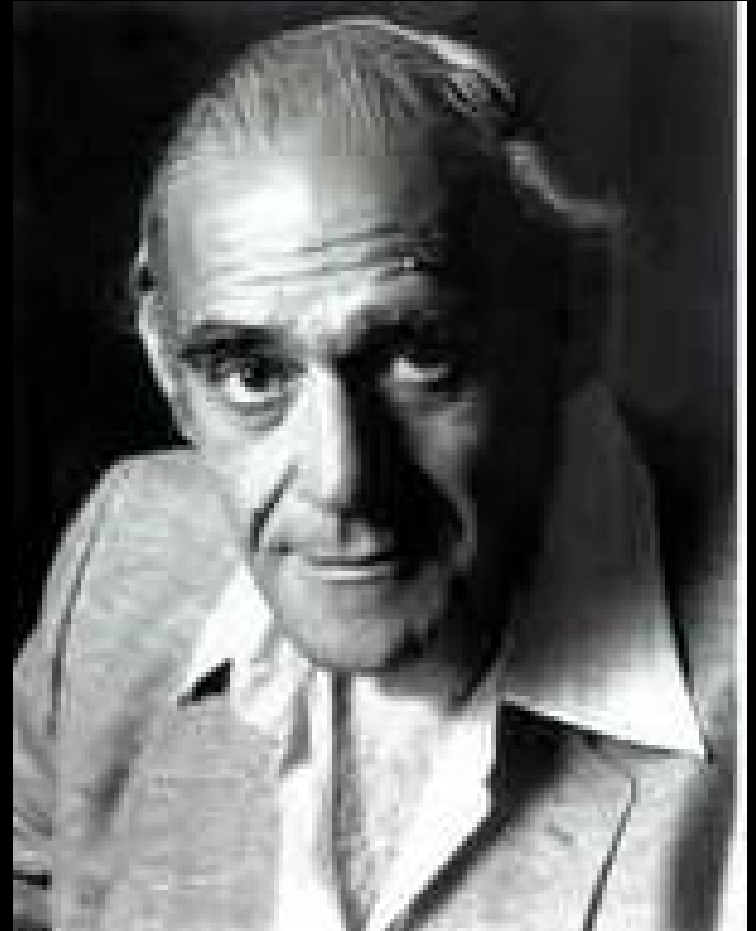
Morris Bober

- How is Morris an exemplar?
- Elie Wiesel: "To be a Jew...is to suffer for a *purpose*." Valid?
- The American Dream: a failure? What's Morris' attitude?



Morris Bober

- How is Morris an exemplar?
- Elie Wiesel: "To be a Jew...is to suffer for a *purpose*." Valid?
- The American Dream: a failure? What's Morris' attitude?
- Is Morris ultimately "good"?



Helen Bober



- How do her parents attempt to influence her?

Helen Bober



- How do her parents attempt to influence her?
- How does she attempt to break away?

Helen Bober



- How do her parents attempt to influence her?
- How does she attempt to break away?
- If FB existed back then, what would her relationship status be? Why?

Ida Bober



Ida Bober

- Why does she fear for her daughter?



Ida Bober

- Why does she fear for her daughter?
- How does her fear manifest in her daily life?



Ida Bober

- Why does she fear for her daughter?
- How does her fear manifest in her daily life?
- How does Helen differ from her?



Ida Bober

- Why does she fear for her daughter?
- How does her fear manifest in her daily life?
- How does Helen differ from her?
- What's Malamud's commentary on women like Ida?



Themes



Themes



- What is Malamud looking to teach us in the book?

Themes



- What is Malamud looking to teach us in the book?
- How do you know?

Themes



- What is Malamud looking to teach us in the book?
- How do you know?
- Is The Assistant relevant today? Why or why not?

Say goodnight, Morris.

