

Sample 1 Coolest thing I learned  
High

Dr. Tucker

Laughter in the Fine Arts

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### CTIL – A Confederacy of Dunces

After reading the novel “A Confederacy of Dunces” by John Kennedy Toole, I found that the coolest thing I had learned was the genre of the novel of itself. The novel falls under the category of *picaresque*, a subgenre of prose fiction. The book contains many satirical elements, such as the big picture of Ignatius’ ill-minded and lame actions taking a positive effect at the end of the novel, by jailing the unfair and unruly owner of the bar, the Night of Joy, and giving officer Mancuso the glory he has always been in search of. Other effects are caused by his actions, such as the public shaming of Dr. Talc at his school (which is well deserved for his lack of skill in his profession), the liberation of Jones from the bar that he is forced to work at to avoid jailing, the long-deserved retirement of Miss Trixie and her prompt reception of an Easter ham, the better job opportunity given to the B-girl Darlene as an exotic dancer at a finer establishment, and Mr. Levy’s avoidance of the lawsuit threatened by one of his vendors. Mr. Levy also receives redemption in his marriage for his good fortune of avoiding the whole situation, and shames his wife for constantly portraying him to be the cause of disgrace in his family to his daughters. He then carries his luck even further by creating a more successful Bermuda shorts company, which then employs Jones. Even Mrs. Reilly gets what she wants, as she is able to start a real relationship with her Claude Robichaux, especially after her decision to commit her son to a mental hospital. It eventually works out for poor Ignatius, as his ex-girlfriend Myrna Minkoff comes and takes him away, instead of to a mental hospital. It was interesting to see this pan out throughout the novel, as it is unclear whether or not *Fortuna* will grant Ignatius with the good fortune he has been desiring.