

American Literature 2nd Semester Final Study Guide

Period 1: Friday, May 30, 8 a.m.
Period 4: Wednesday, May 28, 9:15 a.m.
Period 8: Wednesday, May 28, 8 a.m.

Eras

Civil War Era

Realism

Modernism

Be able to describe the components of each era. Know what differentiates one era from another, which texts come from which eras, and what sequence they came in.

Texts

Spirituals ("Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"; "Go Down Moses"; "Keep Your Hand on the Plow")

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce

Whitman's poetry: "I Hear America Singing," "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer," and "Song of Myself"

Dickinson's poetry: "If You Were Coming in the Fall," "My Life Closed Twice Before its Close," "The Soul Selects its Society"

"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" by Mark Twain

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

"Richard Cory" and "Miniver Cheevy" by Edwin Arlington Robinson

"Douglass" and "We Wear The Mask" by Paul Laurence Dunbar

"The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane

"The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

"The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin

"Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway

"In Another Country" by Ernest Hemingway

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot



Be able to summarize all stories and identify which characters belong in each story. Be able to provide examples of themes in each story and poem, and compare and contrast different stories. For poetry, be able to identify poetic devices and themes, and be able to analyze the content of the poetry for meaning. Be familiar enough with each story that you would be able to answer plot questions for each one.

Terms

Consonance

Metaphor

Assonance

Simile

Connotation

3rd person omniscient

3rd person limited

Parallelism

Full rhyme

Slant Rhyme

Rhyme scheme

Icebergs

Satire

Personification

Be able to define each term, identify an example of each term in a provided text, and be able to provide your own example.

I. Elements of Civil War Literature

- a. Resistance to Slavery
- b. A Nation Divided
- c. Poetic Revolution

II. Walt Whitman – "I Too, Sing America," "Song of Myself," and "When I heard the Learned Astronomer"

- A. i. Identify main themes in the poems "Song of Myself"
- B. ii. Identify elements of American idealism in Whitman's poetry

III. Ambrose Bierce

- A. "An Occurance at Owl Creek Bridge"
 - i. What view of death does the story portray?
 - ii. Apply the theme of deception to the following story elements: Ambrose Bierce/narrator, Peyton Farquhar, the Federal spy.

IV. Elements of Realism

- A. society as weak and corrupt
- B. regions becoming more distinct in speech and dialect
- C. Characters are easy to relate to
- D. Characters often establish roles of hierarchy

V. Mark Twain

- a. "Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"
- b. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- c. How do these stories exemplify realism?

VI. Feminism

- A. Kate Chopin
 - i. "The Story of an Hour"
 - a. What were Mrs. Mallard's views of marriage?
 - b. How were they unacceptable for women from this time period?
 - c. What is irony? Be able to give an example of irony that appears in this story.
 - ii. What elements of Chopin's story apply to Realism?
- B. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 - i. "The Yellow Wallpaper"
 - a. What are the various stages of the main character's psychology?
 - b. What is the story a metaphor for?

VII. Stephen Crane and "The Open Boat"

- a. What does the story depict about nature's attitude towards humans?
- b. What is ironic about the story's ending?

VIII. Modernism

- A. Authors seek to convey life as people actually experience it
- B. Qualities of alienation, rebuilding, characters are surrounded by debris of the past
- C. Profound uneasiness in the modern world

IX. F. Scott Fitzgerald and *The Great Gatsby*

- A. Understand the following themes from *The Great Gatsby*
 - i. Desire for the American Dream
 - ii. Unrequited Love
 - iii. Importance of Wealth
- B. Symbols
 - i. colors
 - ii. loneliness
 - iii. Pammy
 - iv. Gatsby's car
 - v. The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleberg
 - vi. social class
- C. Vocabulary—all 3 lists (21 words)

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"I forgot to make a back-up copy of my brain, so everything I learned last semester was lost."

X. Ernest Hemingway

- A. About Ernest Hemingway (PowerPoint notes)
 - i. What wars did Hemingway base most of his literature off of?
 - ii. What is the iceberg technique?
- B. "In Another Country"
 - i. Where does this story take place?
 - ii. Who is the man that wears a black veil? Why is it ironic that he does not receive a medal?
 - iii. Why does the narrator believe he doesn't fit in with the other "boys" he meets?
 - iv. What is the irony behind the death of the Major's wife?
- C. "Hills Like White Elephants"
 - i. What do the "white elephants" represent?

XI. T.S. Eliot and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

- a. How does the poem demonstrate emptiness and alienation?
- b. Metaphors/imagery
- c. Narrator and perception