

AP Literature and Composition Exam Review of Major Literary Works

We have studied eleven major literary works this semester from which you may choose to respond to the third question on the AP examination. Choose two of the works from the list below and complete each of the ten activities.

As I Lay Dying (Faulkner)

Emma (Austen)

Hamlet (Shakespeare)

The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)

Heart of Darkness (Conrad)

Life of Pi (Martel)

Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)

Snow Falling on Cedars (Guterson)

Song of Solomon (Morrison)

Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare)

Wuthering Heights (Brontë)

Due Dates: 4/14/09 and 4/29/09

1. What is the significance of the title? Explain and provide supporting detail.
2. Compose two different theme statements for the work. Do any literary elements (motifs, images, symbols, setting details, etc.) appear repeatedly to reinforce each theme? Then, provide supporting evidence of two crucial scenes that reveal or encapsulate your stated themes of the book. Locate brief supporting quotations that you can memorize.
3. What is the function of setting in the work? Consider the multiple aspects of setting (geography, time period, occupations, cultural environment, social relationships, religion, and moral standards) in your analysis.
4. Discuss the beginning and end of the work. What do these specific scenes reveal about the change that takes place in the work? Does the work begin in one state (such as chaos, discord, passivity, confinement, passion) and progress to some different state?
5. What is the central conflict (external and/or internal) around which the work centers?
6. Identify and summarize the seven most important plot moments (zeniths or nadirs), those that highlight conflict (external or internal) and move the text toward resolution. Make sure to denote the climax or turning point of the work.

7. For *prose works*, identify the narrator(s), and the narrative style and point of view (first-person major, first-person minor, third-person omniscient, third-person limited, third-person limited omniscient, third-person objective)? How does the narrative structure affect the work's meaning? For *dramatic works*, identify the work as comedy or tragedy, and explain the significance of the genre to the work. Then, discuss how the elements of the play produce what Poe called a "single effect."
8. In analyzing the characters and their roles, create a chart that includes all the following elements.
 - (a) List the most important major and minor characters (minimum of five) in the work.
 - (b) Provide two precise and colorful adjectives to describe each character.
 - (c) Identify their type (round, dynamic, static, flat, stock).
 - (d) Identify each of the characters by their function: for example, narrator, protagonist, antagonist, archetype, foil, confidant, or mentor.
 - (e) How do these characters and the roles they play impact the plot and meaning? Support your assessment of the characters with two examples of their actions or statements. For the protagonist, cite two brief quotations that you can memorize to include in an AP exam essay.
9. Choose two passages that epitomize the dominant stylistic elements of the work and distinguish this author's writing from that of other authors. Note outstanding features of style (allusion, diction, dialect, figurative language, irony, mood, point of view, syntax, tone). Provide specific quotations.
10. Choose two AP prompts for which this work is intensely relevant. For each, create a thesis, construct an outline of body paragraphs (with supporting evidence), and write a concluding statement that suggests theme.