

AP Literature and Composition Exam Review of Major Literary Work

We have studied twelve major literary works this year in AP English Literature 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, organizing your ideas clearly and providing detail. The goal of this assignment is to help you to prepare for question 3 of the AP Examination.

literature circle text

As I Lay Dying (Faulkner)

Hamlet (Shakespeare)

The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)

Heart of Darkness (Conrad)

The Importance of Being Earnest (Wilde)

Life of Pi (Martel)

Pygmalion (Shaw)

Snow Falling on Cedars (Guterson)

Song of Solomon (Morrison)

Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare)

Wuthering Heights (Brontë)

Due Dates: April 29 & 20

Tasks:

1. What is the significance of the title? Explain and provide supporting textual evidence.
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 at least three specific aspects of setting (geography, time period, occupations, cultural environment, social relationships, religion, and moral standards) in your analysis. Provide supporting evidence.
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? Use two specific words to show the change from beginning to end of the work. Explain and provide supporting detail.
5. What are the central conflicts (external and internal) around which the work centers? Discuss in depth at least one external and one internal conflict. Explain and provide supporting detail and examples.

6. Identify and summarize the seven most important plot moments (zeniths or nadirs), those that highlight conflict (external or internal), aid in character development, and move the text toward resolution. Make sure to denote the climax or turning point of the work. Explain and provide supporting detail.
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 or satire, and explain the significance of the genre to the work. Then, discuss how the form of the play contributes to meaning.
8. In analyzing the characters and their roles, create a chart (follow model below) 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 vivid adjectives to describe each character. Use vocabulary words that you have learned this year.
 - (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.

Character 1	Character 2	Character 3	Character 4	Character 5
adjectives	adjectives	adjectives	adjectives	adjectives
type	type	type	type	type
function	function	function	function	function
impact	impact	impact	impact	impact

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, imagery, irony, mood, point of view, syntax, tone). Provide specific quotations, and explain the impact of style on meaning.
10. Choose two AP prompts for which this work is intensely relevant. For each, create a thesis, construct an outline of your two body paragraphs (with topic sentences and two details as supporting evidence for each topic sentence), and write a concluding statement that suggests theme.