

AP Literature and Composition Review of Major Works for AP Examination

We have studied thirteen major literary works this year from which you may choose to respond to the third question on the examination. Remember that you MAY NOT write about a literary work that you have not studied this year in this class, even if it's your favorite book in the whole, wide world.

After we discuss a selection of the questions from previous years, you will choose at least three of the works to review by answering all of the following questions.

Due Dates:

- 24 April: choice one
- 28 April: choice two
- 1 May: choice three and choice four (extra credit)

Here are the literary works from which you may choose:

As I Lay Dying (Faulkner)

Death of a Salesman (Miller)

Fences (Wilson)

Hamlet (Shakespeare)

Heart of Darkness (Conrad)

Life of Pi (Martel)

The Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)

Pygmalion (Shaw)

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead
(Stoppard)

Snow Falling on Cedars (Guterson)

Song of Solomon (Morrison)

Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare)

winter literature circle choice (*All the*

King's Men, Emma, Mrs. Dalloway, The Things They Carried, Wuthering Heights)

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 how significance of the genre. Then, discuss how the elements of the play produce what Poe called a "single effect."
8. Characters:
List the most important major and minor characters (minimum of five) in the work and provide two precise and colorful adjectives to describe each, identifying their type (round, dynamic, static, flat, stock). Explain the central traits of their personalities with references to their actions or statements.
9. Character roles:
Identify each of the characters you chose in the previous question by their function: for example, narrator, protagonist, antagonist, archetype, foil, confidant, or mentor. How do these characters and the roles they play impact the plot and meaning? Specifically explain the protagonist's growth in the work. For the protagonist, locate two brief supporting quotations that you can memorize.
10. Choose two passages that epitomize the dominant stylistic elements of the work. Note outstanding features of style (allusion, diction, dialect, figurative language, irony, mood, point of view, syntax, tone). Provide specific quotations.
11. 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.