American Literature Final Study Guide

**Native American Origin Myths**

What are some characteristics of these types of myths?

1.

2.

3.

What are some commonalities among all the myths?

1.

2.

3.

What does each of the myths explain or reveal?

* Earth on Turtle’s Back:
* When Grizzlies Walked Upright:
* Navajo Origin Legend:
* The Iroquois Constitution:

**The Puritan Age**

What are some primary purposes of Puritan writing?

1.

2.

3.

What is the purpose behind *The General History of Virginia*?

What actions or “happenings” within *Of Plymouth Plantation* revealed the Pilgrims faith in their God?

1.

2.

3.

What are the meanings behind the images used with “To My Dear and Loving Husband”?

1.

2.

3.

From Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, what images are used and what is the central message of the sermon?

What is the author’s purpose behind *The Wonders of the Invisible World*?

What are some major themes/messages that the reader can construct from a reading of *The Crucible*?

1.

2.

3.

Why did Miller write *The Crucible*?

**The Revolutionary Period**

What are the purpose(s) behind the studied Revolutionary writings?

1.

2.

3.

How would you characterize the collective mentality of the people during this time period? What was their focus on?

1.

2.

3.

What is a short, wise or clever saying/truth called?

What is the purpose behind *The Autobiography of Ben Franklin*? What major ideas are contained within it?

1.

2.

3.

What elements characterize literature of The Enlightenment period?

1.

2.

3.

What are the main points made and the purposes in writing the following pieces:

* *Crisis #1*
* *The Speech in the Virginia Convention*
* *Letters from an American Farmer*

**THE ROMANTIC PERIOD:**

What are some characteristics of the Romantic Period of Writing?

1.

2.

3.

What would be some ideas/qualities that are NOT characteristic of Romanticism?

1.

2.

3.

List a major theme/message or two within *The Devil and Tom Walker*.

1.

2.

List a major theme/message behind *The Minister’s Black Veil*.

1.

2.

Describe the symbolic nature of the veil in *The Minister’s Black Veil*.

What are some core beliefs and ideals of the Transcendentalists?

1.

2.

3.

In *Nature*, list any striking images and what your interpretation of them may be.

1.

2.

Describe the personal philosophy that is expressed within *Walden*.

Describe the political philosophy that is expressed within Civil Disobedience.

**BRIDGE TO REALISM:**

What is the message behind what the speaker “hears” in “I Hear America Singing”?

What are the central images in “Because I could not stop for Death”?

What is the central meaning behind “Because I could not stop for Death”?

What are the symbols present within “O’Captain! My Captain!”?

What conflicting emotions are portrayed within “O’Captain! My Captain!”?

**Realism:**

What part of the plot of “The Story of an Hour” would be particularly shocking during the time period in which it is set/written?

What imagery is used within “The Story of an Hour,” and what meaning does that imagery convey?

What are some possible arguments contained within “The Lowest Animal”?

1.

2.

3.

What are some of the particular examples of comparisons made between man and other animals in “The Lowest Animal”?

1.

2.

3.

What is the message behind some of those comparisons in “The Lowest Animal”?

1.

2.

3.

**Naturalism:**

What is the central conflict of “To Build a Fire”?

What are some possible messages/themes from “To Build a Fire”?

**\*Quote Identification: There are 13 questions in which you will have to identify either the author of the work from which the quote is taken (primarily) or the character that spoke / thought the words within the work.**

\*There is also 2 questions on the test that concern *Gatsby*, one being a quote in which you have to identify the character that spoke the words, the other a question that asks you to interpret the meaning behind a reoccurring image/circumstance within the novel.