

Study Guide for English III Fall 2019 Semester Exam

Section 1 - Answer the following questions about "Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader" (separate document on my website)

- A. What is the central idea of the passage?
- B. What kind of passage would this be considered?
- C. What do lines 10-15 imply that the author does?
- D. The fifth paragraph (lines 53-63) implies that before in-store book signings authors do what?
- E. According to the author, the act of selling or giving away a book inscribed by a friend has what effect on a friendship?
- F. Why does the author refer to the success of her relationship as a "miracle" (line 27)?
- G. When the author writes "This can be either a boon or a blot" (line 35), what is she saying that including of an inscription in a book does?
- H. Melancholy (line 77) most nearly means what?

Section 2 - MLA Citation and Research Skills

- A. How are sources ordered on a Works Cited page?
- B. What kind of source would be considered reliable? What is important to check about a source to make sure it's reliable?
- C. What kind of source would be considered *unreliable*?
- D. Build a correct citation for the following source to go on a works cited page:
a book titled *Triumph of Reality TV: The Revolution in American Television* that was written by Leigh Edwards and published by Praeger in 2013, which was accessed on ebrary.
- E. What is the correct order for MLA heading format?
- F. What is the proper format for an in-text citation?

Section 3 - Characterization, Elements of Plot, and Figurative Language

Directions - Identify the figurative language used in each of the following:

- A. Within the irregular arc of coral, the lagoon was as still as a mountain lake.
- B. The incredible pool was only invaded by the sea at high tide.

C. "We've got to make smoke up there-- or die."

Directions - Identify the step on Freytag's Pyramid/plot diagram:

- D. The events where the main character is developing and usually struggling with conflict, leading to the exciting turning point in the story.
- E. The unexpected event that introduces the major conflict of the story.
- F. After the Joker has been captured and escaped, Batman searches and prepares to face the Joker. Everything is leading to the final battle.
- G. The exciting turning point in the story after which the main character must go face the conflict (and usually the antagonist) directly.
- H. Peter Parker is a normal teenager living in Queens with his Aunt and Uncle

Directions - Identify the type of characterization used (direct or indirect)

- I. "Look here," he said. "I'm not about to take guff from anyone. I've been around the block a few times, and I'm no one's doormat. I don't care who you are, where you're from, I don't want to hear what you have to say."
- J. "Nearly everyone preferred Aron with his golden hair and the openness that allowed his affection to plunge like a puppy." (East of Eden, John Steinbeck)
- K. "I couldn't forgive him or like him, but I saw that what he had done was, to him, entirely justified. It was all very careless and confused. They were careless people, Tom and Daisy—they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made." (The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald)
- L. "There was something unmistakably exultant about the mess that Rosa had made. Her bedroom-studio was at once the canvas, journal, museum, and midden of her life. She did not "decorate" it; she infused it." (The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, Michael Chabon)
- M. "He was not over thirty. His eyes were very dark brown and there was a hint of brown pigment in his eyeballs. His cheekbones were high and wide, and strong deep lines cut down his cheeks, in curves besides his mouth [...] His hands were hard, with broad fingers and nails as thick and ridges as little clam shells." (The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck)

Section 4 - "The Minister's Black Veil" by Nathaniel Hawthorne: Read and answer the questions.

But in an instant, as it were, a new feeling took the place of sorrow: her eyes were fixed insensibly on the black veil, when, like a sudden twilight in the air, its terrors fell around her. She arose, and stood trembling before him...

"Have patience with me, Elizabeth!" cried he, passionately. "Do not desert me, though this veil must be between us here on earth. Be mine, and hereafter there shall be no veil over my face, no darkness between our souls! It is but a mortal veil-- it is not for eternity! O! you know not how lonely I am, and how frightened, to be alone behind my black veil. Do not leave me in this miserable obscurity forever!"

"Lift the veil but once, and look me in the face," said she.

"Never! It cannot be!" replied Mr. Hooper.

"Then farewell!" said Elizabeth.

She withdrew her arm from his grasp, and slowly departed, pausing at the door to give one long shuddering gaze, that seemed almost to penetrate the mystery of the black veil. But even amid his grief, Mr. Hooper smiled to think that only a material emblem had separated him from happiness, though the horrors, which it shadowed forth, must be drawn darkly between the fondest of lovers.

- A. From what point of view is the passage narrated?
- B. What does the black veil symbolize (basically)?
- C. Based on the passage, what's the theme of Hawthorne's story?

Section 5 - Poetry Analysis: Read "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes

MOTHER TO SON

By Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor—
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I've still goin', honey,

I'se still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

- A. What does the author compare the mother's life to?
- B. Lines "Don't you set down on the steps- Cause you finds it's kinder hard.-Don't you fall now- For I'se still goin', honey" help to develop what kind of tone?
- C. The comparison of the woman's _____ to climbing _____ is an example of _____ (figurative device).
- D. The use of the line "Life ain't been no crystal stair" is an example of what style device?
- E. The language of the poem is best described as what?
- F. What is the author's purpose of this text? To _____
- G. What is the theme of this poem?

Section 6 ACT English Practice Tests (separate document on my website)