

Easy Peasy All-in-One High School American Literature 3rd Quarter Exam Section 2

ANSWER KEY

Section 1: Matching (See other worksheet)

Section 2: Short Answer Questions

1. How did Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* relate the Salem witch trials of the 1690's to what was going on in the 1950's in America?

(Answers may vary, but something similar to this should be stated.)

Although Miller's play was written in the 1950's, it was based on the actual Salem Witch Trials of the 1690's. People were falsely accused of practicing witchcraft with the accusers having various motives and justifications for the accusations.

Miller linked this idea of false accusations by those with motives to destroy others as well as "mass hysteria" and "mob mentality" to his contemporary example of communist "witch hunts" and McCarthyism. There was a lot of fear at this time and some call this the "Age of Anxiety" due to the threats of the Cold War.

2. What were The Beats all about?

(Answers may vary, but something similar to this should be mentioned.)

They were a group of poets and novel writers concerned with changing consciousness (using hallucinogenic drugs, meditation, and Eastern religion). They wanted to defy conventional writing and literary tradition. They were against social conformity.

3. How did the Postmodern movement view truth and expression?

(Answers may vary, but something here should be included)

Truth is arbitrary/relative. There is no one meaning or truth. It can change. Authors attempted to create psychological truth and reality in their works instead of accepting logical truth and reality.

Freedom of expression, free speech movement

The world is chaotic and writers played around with reality, humor, satire, and dark thoughts. Avant garde and experimentation with drugs and lifestyle.

4. Who were the Confessional Poets?

During the 1950s and 1960s, these group of poets took poetry to a highly personal level, mostly dealing with struggles with family, drugs, alcohol, relationships, politics, and mental illness. Sylvia Plath was perhaps the most famous of them.

Section 3: To Kill A Mockingbird

5. What point of view is the novel told from?

First person

6. Who is the narrator of the story?

Scout

7. Why is it a "sin" to kill a mockingbird?

(Some variation of this should be accepted.)

They "don't do anything but make music for us to enjoy".

It is wrong because they cause no harm and eat nothing that humans need. All they do is provide music.

8. What is Atticus' advice for Scout to get along with people better?

(Some variation of these should be accepted)

To walk a mile in their shoes

To get inside their skin and walk around in it

To see things from their points of view

9. What family lives by a separate set of rules, according to Atticus? For instance, they are allowed to hunt out of season.

the Ewells

10. What does Atticus mean when he says, "Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win"? What major theme of the novel does this seem to reference?

We should always try to do the right thing even when it seems we will lose. Courage and integrity are major themes of the novel.

11. What is the verdict of Tom Robinson's trial?

He is found guilty.

12. What happens to Tom Robinson after the trial?

He is shot and killed by prison guards when he tries to escape.

13. What happens to Bob Ewell after the trial?

Bob Ewell attacks Jem and Scout. Boo Radley saves the children and stabs Bob Ewell, killing him. Heck Tate tells Atticus that Bob Ewell fell on his knife because he believes it would be wrong to put Boo into the spotlight.

14. What are your thoughts on this quote from Atticus? Connect it to the novel.

"... before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."

Answers will vary.

15. When Scout walks Boo Radley home toward the end of the novel, through whose eyes does she see the neighborhood?

She stops on the porch and looks through Boo's point of view. She understands that Boo had been watching them as they grew up. He could see all of their games, them running to Atticus, Jem killing Mrs. Dubose' flowers and Atticus shooting the dog.