

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

ANSWER KEY

Section 1: Matching (See other worksheet)

Section 2: Short Answer Questions

1. What would make *The Red Badge of Courage* be considered a "Realism" piece of writing?

The Red Badge of Courage shows the realistic, horrific side of life through the depiction of war. It deals with real issues like courage, fear, death, self-questioning, etc.

2. What was ironic about how Henry "earned" his "red badge of courage"?

He was fleeing from the fight when he was wounded with the butt of another soldier's weapon.

3. How does nature/the environment in "To Build a Fire" reflect ideas of the movements of Naturalism and determinism?

The environment is harsh and indifferent. Nature does not care about the man.

4. What kind of narrative does the introduction of *My Antonia* present for the reader?

A frame-narrative with a series of memories from Jim's point of view.

5. Read this passage from *My Antonia*:

The road from the north curved a little to the south; so that the grave, with its tall red grass that was never mowed, was like a little island; and at twilight, under a new moon or the clear evening star, the dusty roads used to look like soft grey rivers flowing past it. I never came upon the place without emotion, and in all that country it was the spot most dear to me.

What themes of the novel are articulated in this passage? List at least two.

The Immigrant Experience, The Prairie, The Past/Nostalgia, Innocence, Maturity

6. In her "Ain't I A Woman?" speech, what allusions does Sojourner Truth make in her speech and how does she appeal to her audience?

(Answers may vary. . .but some portion of this should be mentioned)

She makes Biblical allusions (Adam and Eve, Jesus). She appeals to her audience through emotion (grief as a child being taken from a parent). She establishes her own good character (ethos). She shows biblical knowledge and moral rationale (logos). She relates her own personal trials (pathos).

7. In what ways would you call "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" a social satire?

(Answers may vary. . .but some portion of this should be mentioned)

The story deals with upper class socialites who often worry about their reputations. Roger Button is more concerned with what others will think of him than of the incredible circumstance of Benjamin's aging. Reputation is a huge concern. You must conform or risk it all. Hildegarde and Benjamin have to find acceptance in society. Money is the true form of acceptance in this society.

8. What style of writing is Mark Twain especially known for?

Local-color fiction/narratives (regionalism)

9. Explain the differences between dramatic irony, situational irony, and verbal irony.

(Answers may vary. . .but the general idea should be close as these are definitions.)

Verbal irony is when something is said that is not what is meant. In situational irony, both the characters and the audience are unaware of the reality of the situation. In dramatic irony, the characters are unaware of the situation but the audience is not.

10. What is the major point Susan B. Anthony makes in her reference to the Declaration of Independence in "Is it a Crime For A Citizen of the United States to Vote?"

(Answers may vary. . .but the general idea should be similar.)

One of the central ideas of the speech is that government cannot gift rights and therefore cannot take them away. Anthony has to go beyond the letter of the Declaration to the spirit behind it to substitute for "men" the meaning "men and women." "Rights" are something people are born with; they are "God-given." Anthony points out that she has always had the right to vote. She was born with that right whether the government "gave" it to her or not.

11. Why were some post World War I American artists, writers, and others considered "The Lost Generation"?

(Answers may vary. . .but some portion of this should be mentioned)

They rejected American values after the war. Some left to live in Paris and live a carefree lifestyle. The many lives lost in the war made them question many things. They questioned Victorian ideas of morality and what was proper from the older generations. Many were known for drinking heavily and having many relationships. They challenged traditional morality and traditional forms of expression.

12. What common theme did Robert Frost use in much of his poetry to demonstrate self-knowledge, a more complex understanding of the human condition, and a deeper look into the metaphysical world?

Nature

13. What was the Harlem Renaissance?

(Answers may vary. . .but some portion of this should be mentioned)

In the 1920s to mid-1930's there was a new cultural identity movement amongst African Americans which included literary, intellectual, and artistic expression. Harlem was the "center" of the movement. There was an embracing of cultural/racial pride.

14. What is Southern gothic?

It is a style of writing produced in the Southern states and using grotesque or macabre themes and imagery.

15. In "The Story of An Hour" what theme does Kate Chopin use in the setting of the story being limited and confined?

(Answers may vary. . .but the general idea should be similar.)

Freedom/Lack of Freedom. She uses the setting to emphasize Mrs. Mallard's feelings about her life as a wife.