

American Studies II Honors—2014-2015 Final Exam Review Guide

Format: 100 multiple choice questions at 1 pt each and 1 essay at 35 pts = 135 total points

Each of the five works we have read this year will be included on the exam, as well as a blind read. You will read excerpts from the works and answer close reading Qs.

To do well on this exam, you need to review ALL of your notes from the year, read the lovely wiki, and acquaint yourself with the plot, characters, symbols, themes, setting, and historical/cultural significance of the written works. I have also built multidisciplinary aspects into the novel (e.g., artistic movements, psychological theories, and sociological elements, so you should be up on those, too. You can't study for the blind read 😊

Terms to know and be able to identify:

- Types of narration
- Modernism
- Realism
- Expressionism
- Direct Characterization
- Indirect Characterization
- Tone
- Imagery
- Allusion
- Allegory
- Theme
- Foreshadowing
- Irony
- Rhetoric
- Ethos
- Pathos
- Logos
- Tragic Hero
- Voice
- Diction
- Symbolism

The Great Gatsby

Know the characteristics of first person narrative. How does the narration of the story affect the reading of it?

What is the setting of the novel (time and place)? What are the implications of it from a literary standpoint (I'm talking about modernism here).

What's the difference between East Egg and West Egg? Why should we make note of the "geography" of that? For this novel, what does East vs. West mean?

Review the major symbols:

TJ Eckleberg

The green light

The books at Gatsby's house

Colors (white and green especially)

Know the deal with these characters:

Jay Gatsby

Nick Carraway

Tom Buchanan

Daisy Buchanan

Jordan Baker

George Wilson

Myrtle Wilson

Meyer Wolfsheim

How does the American Dream manifest in this novel?

Of Mice and Men

Setting is important here—what is the when/where/why? How did G and L end up where they end up? American Dream, anyone?

As part of setting, review the significance of the camp and where it's specifically located.

Review the types of characterization and how they can be applied to the following:

George

Lennie

Slim

Curley

Curley's Wife

Candy

Check out allusions (“the best laid plans of mice and men”) and symbols (see list below)

The farm

Rabbits

Dogs

“Soft” things

Don't forget the implicit racism and sexism and how they affect characters

Review the first and last chapters for foreshadowing

Death of a Salesman

Might as well start with some more discussion of the American Dream—what is it for this time period? How do the dreams of varying characters differ and why?

Review Expressionism, Realism, and the function of both in the play.

What is the role of stage directions in understanding the action of the play?

How do the main characters act and interact with one another?

Willy

Linda

Biff

Happy

Charlie

Bernard

“The Woman”

The bosses

Here are the main symbols to review:

Fountain pen

Basketballs

Stockings

The car

Seeds

Apartment buildings

Be able to discuss Willy as a Tragic Hero

The Catcher in the Rye

Surprise! Another novel in which the setting matters—why NYC and why winter?

How do we come to understand Holden as a character? What is his voice (the literary voice, not the singing one) like and how is it maintained throughout the story?

Be able to discuss Holden's changing (or not changing??) mental state?

Review the allusion to "Comin' Thro the Rye"—how does this tie in with what Holden wants to do?

How does Holden's behavior/thoughts about these characters help us better "get" him?

Phoebe

Allie

Stradlater

His parents

Jane Gallagher

The nuns

Sally Hayes

Maurice/Sunny

Mr. Antolini

Symbols:

Red hunting hat

Museum of Natural History

Carousel

To Kill a Mockingbird

Know about Maycomb—what is society like, who are the main players around town, what's the difference between town and country living? Setting is important (again).

How does the voice of Scout and the narration impact our reading experience?

In what ways does prejudice exist in the novel? Think race, sex, socio-economic status, etc.

There are a few themes implicit in the text—how does Lee deal with each of these topics and turn them into a “message”: innocence, justice/equality, what is good vs. what is bad.

Character List: Scout, Jem, Atticus, Aunt Alexandra, Calpurnia, Tom Robinson, Misses Maudie and Crawford, Heck Tate, The Ewells, The Cunninghams

Major Symbols: Mockingbirds, Tim Johnson, the snowman

Review the action of the trial, the major testimony by the 4 witnesses, and, more importantly, Atticus' closing statement.

After all this, you will have your blind read and then just the essay 😊