

ENG 215 Textual Analysis Final Exam Study Guide

The exam will contain multiple choice, identification, and short answer questions. If you completed all the reading and listened carefully during class discussions, you should do well on the exam. To prepare, review your notes and make sure that you can do the following:

- a) Identify every work from the semester by title and author
- b) Identify major characters from each work
- c) Explain major themes, symbols, and motifs from each work
- d) Know the narrative structure and point of view of each work
- e) Define and apply the following terms/concepts:

Archetype

A character or character type that you recognize throughout literature or culture in general, for instance the villain, hero, or damsel in distress

Foil

A character that contrasts with another character (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight particular qualities of the other character

Narrative vs. Story

Story – a sequence of events

Ex: The plot of Bob's Monday begins when he wakes up in the morning. The most interesting part of the day is at lunch, when he flirts with his coworkers. The plot ends when he goes to sleep at night.

Narrative – a sequence of detailed events that tie into a plot; adding details to the sequence of events to make coherent sense of why you did things

Ex: The narrative of Bob's Monday – Bob wakes up in the morning, skipping breakfast so he can go straight to work. Though most of Bob's day is boring, he enjoys lunch, when he frequently flirts with his coworkers. After work he goes straight home to get enough sleep to go to work the next day.

Point of View (1st, 2nd, 3rd person)

1st – "I"

2nd – "You"

3rd – "He, she, they, etc."

Limited vs. Omniscient Narrator

Omniscient – all knowing, sort of like the narrator of a movie, knows everything that is about to occur within the plot

Limited – limited to the point of view of a certain character, or key characters

Focal character

Character on whom the audience is supposed to place the majority of their concern and attention

Unreliable narrator

A narrator whose credibility has been seriously compromised

Book of reference:

Passing

Irene becomes extremely jealous and paranoid; reader begins to view her doubts and assumptions

Only get one side of the story through narrator, however the reader remains skeptical as to whether or not the narrator is telling the truth or not

Post-colonialism

Feelings towards the colonizer

How they feel after disbanding from colonization

Book of reference:

A Small Place

Viewing the countries after they are colonized

Deconstructionism

Deconstructing the themes and points of view within a novel; examining the binary oppositions and tearing them apart, assessing whether or not they can be analyzed or converted, i.e. colonizer vs. the colonized

Modernism

Disillusionment sparked by World War I; questioning self, society, and attempting to define what the world is, however unable to due to the rapid changes. More introspective, study more of the individual aspect of a person

Book of reference:

Passage to India

Double Consciousness

Trying to reconcile being a Black American, society is still harshly segregated by race, because nobody understands how to live equally amongst each other

Trying to function in a society that oppresses you for something that you can't control, but want to make known at the same time. For example, being black in America. You are expected to live as though you are a free individual, even though, society is still segregated, people are still racist, and you want to make the issues clear

The Veil

Physical representation of the invisible color line

White barrier; The Souls of Black Folk narrator went to school, was grouped in the same classroom as the white children but weren't given the same privileges

Book of Reference:

The Souls of Black Folk

Can see what's going on but can't enact cause; physical division of color lines, however only one-sided, i.e. blacks are discriminated by the whites while the whites are oblivious

Flight Motif

Flight out of slavery; escape, liberation; can include an escape to a fantasy life

Books of reference:

Passing

The Bluest Eye

Harlem Renaissance

1920's and 30's cultural movement for black people

Book of reference:

Passing

Blues sensibility and Oral Tradition

Bildungsroman

Bildungsroman is a special kind of novel that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of its main character from his or her youth to adulthood. Also known as a coming-of-age story. Typically, the young, sensitive person seeks answers to a harsh reality. Novel usually begins with a tragedy that dramatically alters the life of the main character. Character grows because of their journey

Books of reference:

Third and Final Continent

The Bluest Eye

Identification Questions

Identify the title and author of the work where the following item appears, and explain its significance in the text (3-4 sentences each)

Sample Identification: A green bird

(Note: This example is a bit more obscure than what will be on the exam)