

# 2009-10 AP Literature Mid-Year Final Exam

## *Study Guide*

This year's AP Lit mid-year final is worth 300 points and will consist of three sections:

### **Section I – Passage Identification and Analysis**

You will be given 6 passages from stories we read during the Boot Camp section of the class (see complete list on the reverse side of this sheet). You will be asked to **CHOOSE 5 PASSAGES** and do the following:

- **Identify the title of the story** (1 point)
- **Identify the author of the story** (1 point)
- **Explain the author's message, as revealed in the passage** (8 points)

It will be necessary to go beyond the passage itself in writing about the author's message – make connections and demonstrate that you know the story and understand it in its entirety. See the sample question on the reverse side of this sheet.

**Plan to spend about 20 minutes on this part of the exam (4 minutes per question).**

### **Section II – Passage Analysis**

You will be given 2 passages that you have not seen before and will be asked to read them and answer a series of multiple choice questions about each. (25 points per passage)

**Plan to spend about 20 minutes on this part of the exam (10 minutes per passage).**

### **Section II – Essays** (2 questions; 100 points each; 200 points total)

You will be given two AP exam questions which you must answer using works we read this semester. You may NOT use the same novel to answer both questions, so be sure to read both questions first, before choosing which novel to use for each.

This section of the exam is worth two-thirds of the entire test score.

**Plan to spend about 80 minutes on this part of the exam (40 minutes on EACH essay).**

### **TIPS and ADVICE:**

- **Read over the notes and essays you wrote during our Boot Camp unit.** Make sure you are familiar with the stories and can write about them easily. You need to know:
  - character names
  - major plot elements
  - author's message (or point) for each story
- **Read over notes and essays you wrote on each of the five novels you've read for this class** (The Awakening, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, The Sun Also Rises, Hamlet, and Invisible Man). Make sure you know:
  - character names
  - major plot elements
  - themes and messages for each

While it's true that you will only have to write about two of these works on the exam, you won't know which two will work best with the questions asked until you sit down to take the exam. Therefore, you will need to prepare carefully for all five works.

- **Wear a watch so you can carefully gauge your time during the test.** It's important that you not spend more than 40 minutes on the Passage ID section of the exam so that you will have time to complete both of the essays in Section II. If you are careful to limit yourself to the recommended time per question in Section I, you will not shortchange Section II.
- **Relax and do your best!**

## **Boot Camp Stories:**

1. “Story of an Hour” (158)—Kate Chopin
2. “The Yellow Wallpaper” (313)—Charlotte Perkins Gilman
3. “Yellow Woman” (722)—Leslie Marmon Silko
4. “Happy Endings” (33)—Margaret Atwood
5. “A Conversation with My Father” (694)—Grace Paley
6. “The Lottery” (365)—Shirley Jackson
7. “Bartleby the Scrivener” (531)—Herman Melville
8. “A & P” (783)—John Updike
9. “Paul’s Case” (117)—Willa Cather

## **Sample Passage ID Question:**

The only authentic ending is the one provided here:

*John and Mary die. John and Mary die. John and Mary die.*

**Title:**

**Author:**

**Author’s message:**