

Humanities University Study Guide Worksheet

LIT 515 Twentieth Century Literature

Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Book 6. Boston: Bedford-St. Martins, 2004.

UNIT	WEEKS	TOPICS	READINGS
I		Overview	
	1	The Twentieth Century	Book 6, 1-29
II		Modernism	
	2	Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) Heart of Darkness	Book 6, 30-34 Book 6, 35-96
		Author	Please write a brief author biography.
		Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Mr. Kurtz, critical scene.
		Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: post-colonialism, psychological novel.
		Essay Topics	E1: Discuss the author's ideas about human nature – the primitive vs. the civilized. E2: How is Heart of Darkness a psychological novel which traces the disintegration of a character? E3: How does Heart of Darkness relate to post-colonialism? Please discuss the way that two civilizations are portrayed. E4: Explore the violence embedded within descriptions and portrayals in Heart of Darkness.
	3	William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)	Book 6, 181-200
		Author	Please write a brief author biography.
		Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.
		Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: metonymy, simile
		Essay Topics	E1. How do Yeats' works represent Irish nationalism and a renewed pride in Irish history, heritage, and culture? E2. Discuss apocalyptic elements in Yeats' poetry. E3. Describe how Yeats uses elements from mythology in his poems. E4. Explore the way that Yeats confronts old age and aging in his poems.
	4	James Joyce (1882-1941)	Book 6, 366-401
		Author	Please write a brief author biography.
		Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Gabriel, critical scene.
		Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: metaphor, metonymy.
		Essay	E1: Describe how the Misses Morkan's annual dance triggers

	Topics	<p>memories and emotions in the guests.</p> <p>E2: Discuss Gabriel's feelings toward Gretta.</p> <p>E3: Describe how Joyce's short story, "The Dead" investigates the relationship of memory and emotions.</p> <p>E4: Discuss how the final scene, the snow falling on all of Ireland, functions as a metaphor.</p>	
5		Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)	Book 6, 402-422
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each of the narratives of the themes, main characters, character analysis of the protagonists, critical scenes.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: essay, creative non-fiction	
	Essay Topics	<p>E1: What does Woolf have to say about women who wish to write or devote themselves to a life of the mind?</p> <p>E2: How do Woolf's "Three Pictures" illustrate how individuals create first impressions of people?</p> <p>E3: In "The Fascination of the Pool," how does Woolf create a meditation about the nature of the mind?</p> <p>E4: Describe how fact and fiction come together in Woolf's writing.</p>	
6		T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)	Book 6, 473-501
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: modernism, allusion	
	Essay Topics	<p>E1. Discuss the elements of Eliot's poetry that reflect the individual dealing with a now-unfamiliar world.</p> <p>E2. How is love represented in Eliot's poetry?</p> <p>E3. Discuss the feelings that are evoked by reading Eliot's The Waste Land.</p> <p>E4. Describe the impact of voices and conversations in The Waste Land, especially in "A Game of Chess."</p>	
7		Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)	Book 6, 245-260
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: elegy, sonnet	
	Essay Topics	<p>E1. Discuss the connection between sexuality and violence in Rilke's poetry.</p> <p>E2. Describe how Rilke deals with themes of fertility and procreation in his poetry.</p> <p>E3. Explore how sleep and rebirth are connected in Sonnets to Orpheus.</p> <p>E4. Discuss how the Duino Elegies reflect the world and the times after World War I.</p>	

8	Surrealism Franz Kafka (1883-1924)	Book 6, 423- 459
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Gregor Samsa, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: surrealism, allegory, parable.	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss surrealism in Kafka's work. E2. Describe what happens to Gregor Samsa in "The Metamorphosis" and the way his family responds to it. E3. In what ways is "The Metamorphosis" an allegory of modern life which shows alienation and helplessness? E4. How can "The Metamorphosis" be applied to the modern world?	
9	Anna Akhmatova (1889-1966)	Book 6, 552- 567
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: requiem, couplet	
Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the relationship between ice, glass, festivities, and isolation in "Voronezh." What feelings and does the poem express? E2. Explore the tension between silence and self-expression in "To the Memory of M.B." E3. What is "Requiem" about? What were some of the issues that are described in the poem? What are the states of mind and the conditions of the world that are depicted? E4. How does "Requiem" explore the impact of terror on a society?	
10	Federico Lorca (1898-1936)	Book 6, 568- 585
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description for each poem: poetic form, subject, figurative language, and impression on the reader.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: ballad, ode	
Essay Topics	E1. Describe the language used to blend eroticism and violence that characterizes "The Faithless Wife." E2. How does Lorca show the loss of virility in "Ode to Walt Whitman"? How does he describe the men of New York during Walt Whitman's time? E3. Describe how Lorca portrays valor in the face of certain death in "Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias." E4. What kind of afterlife does Lorca envision for the slain bullfighter in "Lament"?	
11	Existentialism	Book 6, 746- 751

	Sartre (1905-1980)	Book 6, 692-745
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Orestes, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: existentialism, revenge tragedy.	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss the author's ideas about the nature of revenge, and the role and responsibility of those who find themselves pressured to act to avenge a death. E2: What does "The Flies" say about free will vs. determinism? E3: What does the absence of God do to an individual's sense of choice? E4: Explain how Orestes views human nature, and strength vs. weakness. How does he describe his stance to Electra?	
12	Albert Camus (1913-1960)	Book 6, 812-825
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Daru, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: existentialism, absurdism.	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss what Camus considers to be life in an absurd world. E2. Describe the setting and its significance in "The Guest." E3. In "The Guest," how do the actions of the Arab bring to mind the existence of complex and conflicting ethical codes? E4. What are some of the things that Daru does that show compassion toward the Arab? What are some of the things that he does that seem to contradict that?	
III	Postmodernism	
13	Samuel Beckett (1906-1989)	Book 6, 770-789
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Krapp, critical scene.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: theatre of the absurd, absurdism.	
Essay Topics	E1: How does Krapp change over time? How is he different at twenty-eight, thirty-nine, and sixty-nine? E2. Discuss alienation and describe a few twentieth century works that explore absurdism as a response to alienation. E3. How does Beckett's work reflect the belief that in world characterized by alienation, and an undermining of beliefs, a rational response is to be irrational, even absurd? E4. Discuss the kinds of memories that Krapp has, and how they differ the way they really happened in "Krapp's Last Tape."	
14	Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986)	Book 6, 648-658

Author	Please write a brief author biography.
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of the narrator, critical scene.
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: modernism, short story, modernismo.
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss modernist elements in Borges' work. E2. Describe how Borges creates a puzzle within a puzzle, first with the attempt to break codes used in war, and then, the use of an ancient riddle. E3. In what ways does "The Garden of the Forking Paths" represent the structure and behavior of the human mind? E4. How do riddles of the past, false information, subterfuge, and spying affect one's sense of reality in "The Garden of the Forking Paths"?

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Magic Realism
Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1927-)

Book 6, 924-932

Author	Please write a brief author biography.
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, main characters, character analysis of Father Gonzaga, critical scene.
Literary Terms	Please briefly define the following literary terms: magical realism, irony.
Essay Topics	E1: How does Garcia Marquez's work reflect and illustrate magic realism? E2. Where does "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" take place? How does Father Gonzaga respond to the angel? E3. Describe the tension between faith and cynicism in "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings." E4. Explain how the people in "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" illustrate the conflicting feelings in the modern world between the secular and the sacred.

V

Finals

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Review, Essay, Exam