

Answer the following questions in English. Make sure you write the question number before your answer.

I. Write one sentence about each of the following items in the context of American literary history. Make your one sentence as informative as possible.

15 %

1. The Lost Generation
2. *Death in the Afternoon*
3. John Eliot (1604-1690)
4. *Long Day's Journey into Night*
5. *Native Son*

II. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions. 45 %

A.

I heard the merry grasshopper then sing.
The black-clad cricket bear a second part;
They kept one tune and played on the same string,
Seeming to glory in their little art.
Shall creatures abject thus their voices raise
And in their kind resound their Maker's praise
Whilst I, as mute, can warble forth no higher lays?

6. Who is the author of this poem? 2 %

7. What is your interpretation of this poem? Discuss the poem in the context of American literary tradition. What makes the poem "American"? 10 %

B.

I placed a jar in Tennessee,
And round it was, upon a hill.
It made the slovenly wilderness
Surround that hill.

The wilderness rose up to it,
And sprawled around, no longer wild.
The jar was round upon the ground
And tall and of a port in air.

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It took dominion everywhere.
The jar was gray and bare.
It did not give of bird or bush,
Like nothing else in Tennessee.

8. Who is the author of this poem? 2 %
9. What is your interpretation of this poem? What does the poem say about the interrelationship between art and nature? Which literary movement would you associate this poem with, and why? 14 %

C.

To go into solitude, a man needs to retire as much from his chamber as from society. I am not solitary whilst I read and write, though nobody is with me. But if a man would be alone, let him look at the stars. The rays that come from those heavenly worlds, will separate between him and vulgar things. One might think the atmosphere was made transparent with this design, to give man, in the heavenly bodies, the perceptual presence of the sublime. Seen in the streets of cities, how great they are! If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these preachers of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.

10. What is the title of the essay from which the excerpt is taken? 1 %
11. Who is the author? 1 %
12. Discuss in detail the above excerpt in terms of American transcendentalism. 15 %

Essay Questions: 40 %

13. Discuss the "international theme" that characterizes many of Henry James' works. Use *The Portrait of a Lady* or *Daisy Miller* as an example in your discussion. 20%
14. What is the relationship between American Romanticism and European Romanticism? In what ways did American Romanticism help to shape the American national identity? Choose at least one major American Romantic writer to illustrate your argument. 20 %

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