

AP Literature Study Guide

Types of “Isms”

Themes and Genres in Literature

Romanticism

- Mid 19th century
- Valued feeling over reason as well as the individual
- Elements can include supernatural, beauty of nature, personal feelings, etc.

Transcendentalism

- Mid 19th century
- Self-reliance and not conforming to society or standards
- Aim for self-perfection

Realism

- Mid to late 19th century
- Represent truth and real experiences

Regionalism

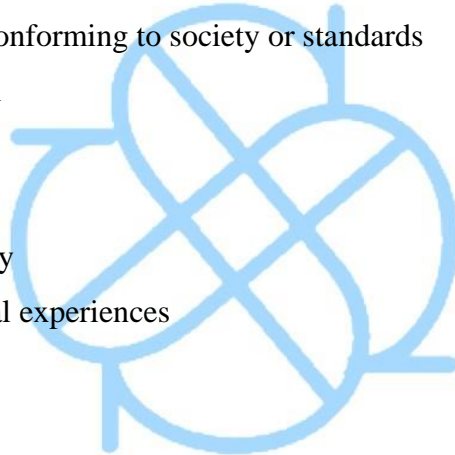
- 19th century
- Focuses on the local settings found in real word areas and experiences

Naturalism

- 19th century
- Darker themes while trying to understand the human behavior

Imagism

- Early 20th century
- Favored images and symbolism
- Willingness to play with forms



Lost Generation

- Beginning in 1914
- Popularized by Ernest Hemingway
- Generation who lost relatives or friends during World War I

The Harlem Renaissance

- Throughout the 1920s
- African American influence and culture in Harlem (located in upper Manhattan)
- Langston Hughes is major figure of this time

Modernism

- 1918-1945
- Loss of individual to machinery and alienation (major themes)

Postmodernism

- Beginning in 1945
- Themes include political oppression, alienation based on race, gender, and sexual orientation

The Beat Movement

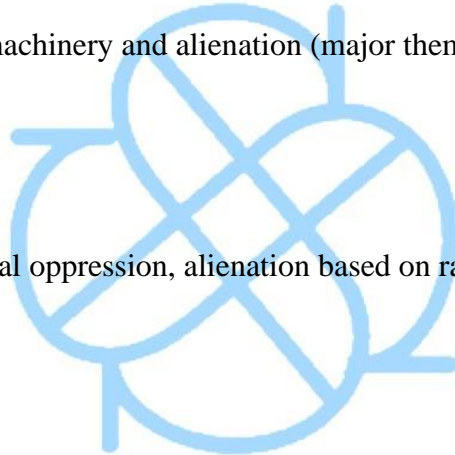
- 1950s
- Major figures include Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac
- Embraced nonconformity

Gonzo Journalism

- Beginning in 1970
- Hunter S. Thompson invented this
- Blends fact and fiction in writing

Magical Realism

- Beginning in the 1960s



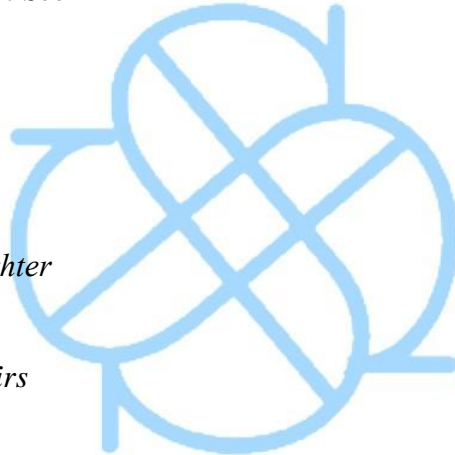
- Realistic circumstances with unrealistic elements

Creative Nonfiction

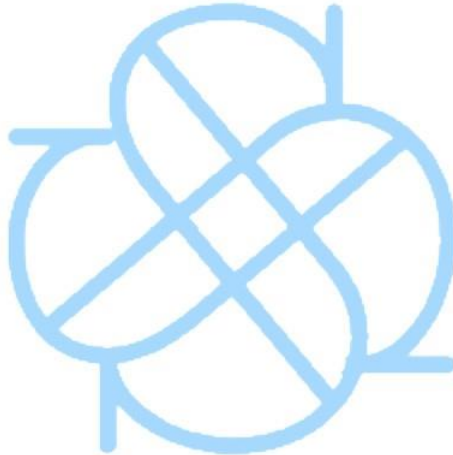
- Late 20th and early 21st centuries
- Blends literature and nonfiction

Famous Works To Know (FRQ Section) (List adapted from Crash Course)

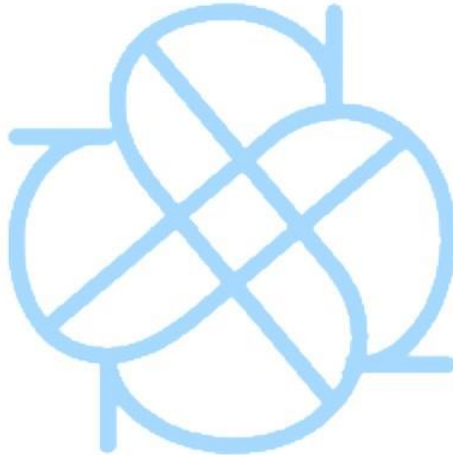
- *The Aeneid*
- *The Age of Innocence*
- *Alias Grace*
- *All the Light We Cannot See*
- *Americanah*
- *The Bell Jar*
- *Beloved*
- *Beowulf*
- *The Bonesetter's Daughter*
- *Breath, Eyes, Memory*
- *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
- *Ceremony*
- *Cold Mountain*
- *Crime and Punishment*
- *Death in Venice*
- *Death of a Salesman*
- *Dracula*
- *Exit West*
- *Frankenstein*
- *The Goldfinch*
- *Great Expectations*
- *Gulliver's Travels*
- *Heart of Darkness*



- *Home*
- *Homegoing*
- *The Hummingbird's Daughter*
- *The Iliad*
- *Kindred*
- *King Lear*
- *The Kite Runner*
- *Lonely Londoners*
- *Madame Bovary*
- *Mama Day*
- *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*
- *Man and Superman*
- *Mansfield Park*
- *The Metamorphosis*
- *Midnight's Children*
- *The Mill on the Floss*
- *Mrs. Dalloway*
- *My Ántonia*
- *The Namesake*
- *Native Son*
- *Paradise Lost*
- *A Passage to India*
- *The Piano Lesson*
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
- *The Poisonwood Bible*
- *The Portrait of a Lady*
- *The Power of One*
- *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
- *Pygmalion*
- *Quicksand*
- *A Raisin in the Sun*



- *The Return of the Native*
- *The Scarlet Letter*
- *Song Of Solomon*
- *Sons and Other Flammable Objects*
- *The Sound and the Fury*
- *The Tempest*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- *Things Fall Apart*
- *To The Lighthouse*
- *Where the Dead Sit Talking*
- *Wuthering Heights*



Elements of Style

Diction

- The author's choice of words
- Diction can either be the effect of the word or the overall style of the words chosen

Connotation vs Denotation

- Connotation refers to emotional sense or a cultural meaning
- Denotation refers to the standard definition of a word

Style

- Style is the writer's voice
- Style can be similar to tone as well

- Style can impact many other elements (attitude of speaker, etc)

Style Descriptors (these are only a few GREAT examples, there are so many more!)

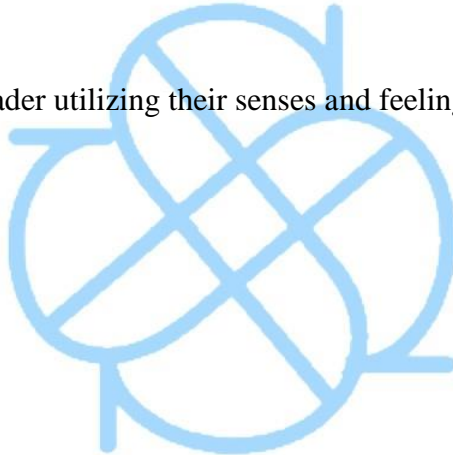
- Authoritative
- Emotive
- Didactic
- Objective
- Ornate
- Plain
- Scholarly
- Scientific

Imagery

- Language that has a reader utilizing their senses and feeling emotions

Types of Imagery

- Auditory
- Visual
- Tactile
- Olfactory
- Gustatory
- Kinesthetic
- Organic



Tone

- The attitude of the speaker or narrator towards a specific item, person, or event

Syntax

- Refers to sentence pattern, structure, and choices of the author

Point of View

- Who is explaining or narrating the situation within the literary work

Common Points of View

- First person
 - Words such as I, me, or my
- Second person
 - Words such as you or your
- Third person limited
 - Words such as he or she
 - Narrator NOT in story
- Third person omniscient
 - Words such as he or she
 - Narrator in story
- Objective
 - Explains story, lacks emotions or feelings of characters

Figurative Language

- Words that do not mean exactly what they say, not literal!

Examples of Figurative Language (Just a few!)

- Allegory
- Irony
- Apostrophe
- Simile
- Symbol

Examples of Tone Words

- Candid
- Nostalgic
- Informal
- Formal

- Satiric
- Tense

Examples of Style Words

- Gloomy
- Bitter
- Optimistic
- Reflective
- Sincere
- Candid (notice how this is for style AND tone)

Key Terms - Fiction and Drama

Allusion

- Referencing a known source

Atmosphere

- Synonymous with mood

Extended metaphor

- Metaphor continuing throughout a piece of work

Imagery

- *Reference page 6*

Irony

- A statement or set of words that is contrasting the normal meaning

Metaphor

- Comparing two things to provide new insight on ideas

Mood

- Emotional feeling around a scene or time, synonymous with atmosphere

Tone

- *Reference page 6*

Key Terms - Poetry

Apostrophe

- Talking to something that is not alive

Epigraph

- Provides context or background information for a poem

Imagery

- *Reference page 6*

Metaphor

- Comparing two things to provide new insight on ideas

Meter

- Rhythm of a poem

Personification

- When nonliving/living things receive human qualities

Speaker

- Who is telling the story or poem

Stanza

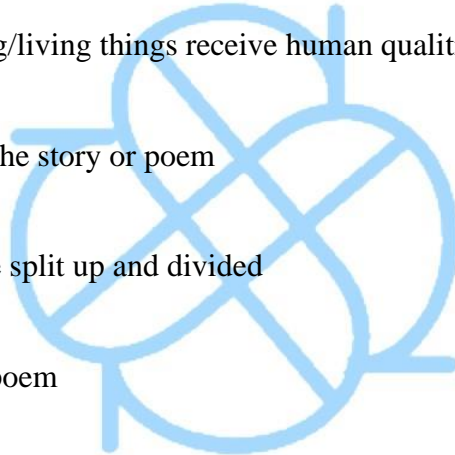
- How poems are split up and divided

Structure

- Outline of the poem

Tone

- *Reference page 6*



All About Meter

Meter refers to how the poem flows, or its rhythm

Meter has stressed and unstressed syllables and the most common is iambic meter which is unstressed and then stressed

How Rhyme Works - Terms to Know

Exact Rhyme

- Words with “perfect” rhyme (what normally comes to mind for poetry)
- Example: hit, sit, lit

Slant Rhyme

- Not exact rhyme but close
- Example: heart, star

Internal Rhyme

- IN a line

External Rhyme

- END of a line

Alliteration

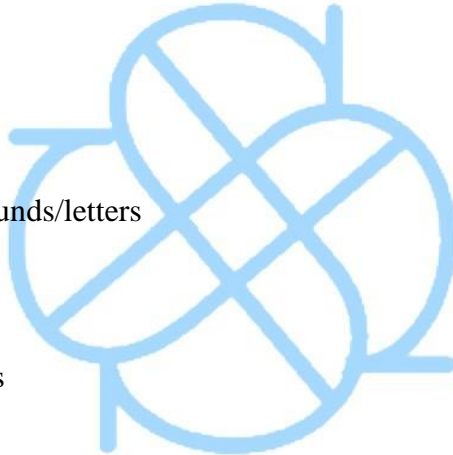
- Repeated beginning sounds/letters

Assonance

- Repeated vowel sounds

Consonance

- Repeated consonant sounds



Basic Structure of an Essay

Paragraph Structure:

1. Claim
2. Evidence
3. Commentary
4. Transition

Other Helpful Tips

Due to the inconsistency of the exam and different prep style here are a few things to do outside of studying these basic terms and works!

- Strengthen your vocabulary and verb choice
- Familiarize with classic novels, poems, and other literary works
- During prep, if you come across a key term you do not know, LOOK IT UP!! Many terms are used rarely but could always come up later.
- If you have the time, learning Greek or Latin roots can help you with words you have not seen before.
- Develop an annotating style that works best for you as you read passages

MOST IMPORTANT TIP

- PRACTICE!!!
- Making sure to practice reading passages, answering questions, and writing responses is most effective for this type of exam.
- Learning key terms and definitions is helpful only if you can apply them!
- When writing a FRQ, the thesis statement is one of the most important components of the whole FRQ. Try to create a simple, yet concise and specific thesis statement.

Due to the format of the 2020 AP Exam, this study guide includes key terms and definitions to help you but does not touch on AP specific guides/tips