

# Answers and Explanations

1. **The correct answer is (D).** Puritan writing reflected their disapproval of lighthearted amusement. Short stories were not common in early Puritan literature.
2. **The correct answer is (A).** Cotton Mather was pastor of the Old North Church in Boston and author of over 500 works including *The Wonders of the Invisible World*, a discussion of witches and the supernatural.
3. **The correct answer is (D).** Jonathan Edwards was one of the principal figures of the Great Awakening, the religious revival that took place in the 1730s–1740s. In his sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” Edwards attacked what he believed to be a dangerous trend towards rationalism and away from piety.
4. **The correct answer is (B).** Sarcasm is not typical of Native American Literature. The other answer choices were used extensively in Native American writing.
5. **The correct answer is (C).** William Bradford, author of *The Plymouth Plantation*, was aboard the Mayflower ship that brought the first Puritan settlers to America. Bradford and the other Puritans aboard the Mayflower referred to themselves as “Saints” and those of other faiths who shared the ship with them as “Strangers.” The Mayflower Compact described in Bradford’s writings was in part a social contract between these two groups of settlers.
6. **The correct answer is (E).** Thomas Paine published *Common Sense* in 1776. In it, he argued that the colonies had outgrown the need for English rule and should be granted independence.
7. **The correct answer is (C).** Ichabod Crane is the itinerant schoolteacher who has a terrifying encounter with the Headless Horseman in “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”
8. **The correct answer is (D).** Charles Brockden Brown (1771–1810) was the first American novelist. His gothic romances set in America formed the basis of later American masters Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne.
9. **The correct answer is (E).** Olaudah Equiano was born in what is now Nigeria before being captured and sold as a slave in America. After his escape, he traveled to England where he wrote an account of his time as a slave in *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African* (1789).
10. **The correct answer is (B).** This passage comes from Chapter 9 of William Bradford’s *History of the Plymouth Plantation*. He uses Old Testament imagery to describe the flight of the Puritans to escape the religious oppression they suffered in England.
11. **The correct answer is (A).** This passage comes from Chapter 9 of William Bradford’s *History of the Plymouth Plantation*. William Bradford arrived in Plymouth aboard the Mayflower. His journal covers the entire story of the Puritan flight from Europe and efforts to survive in America.
12. **The correct answer is (A).** This passage comes from Edward Taylor’s poem “Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold.” The wasp is literally sunbathing after being chilled by a “Northern blast.”

- 13. The correct answer is (A).** The Protestant clergy exerted great influence over the cultural life of early America. Written works could not be easily published without the approval of the religious establishment. Further, certain subjects were considered off-limits.
- 14. The correct answer is (B).** The Romantic Period in American fiction ran from roughly 1830 until 1870. Not only does James Fenimore Cooper pre-date the movement, but also his work doesn't incorporate the Romantic vision. While Cooper's characters took part in extraordinary adventures that were anything but mundane, he attempts to describe as accurately as possible realistic characters. In contrast, Romantic authors created characters that were larger than life—less realistic and yet imbued with greater symbolic meaning.
- 15. The correct answer is (E).** Poe's dark stories of moral or physical decay are often populated with madmen, such as the speaker in "The Raven," the speaker in "Annabel Lee," and Montresor in "The Cask of Amontillado."
- 16. The correct answer is (A).** Aylmer believes that perfection is achievable through the rational application of science. When he removes the birthmark on the cheek of his wife Georgiana, he removes her last imperfection and she dies.
- 17. The correct answer is (B).** An allegory is a story with two or more levels of meaning—a literal level and one or more symbolic levels. The events, setting, and characters in an allegory are symbols for ideas and qualities. An allegorical interpretation of *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne, might view the story of Hester Prynne and Reverend Dimmesdale as the retelling of the story of Adam and Eve who were tempted by Satan, represented by Roger Chillingworth.
- 18. The correct answer is (D).** The word "tintinnabulation" refers to the ringing or sounding of bells. In addition, the passage is from the poem *The Bells*.
- 19. The correct answer is (B).** The passage is from *The Bells*, written by Edgar Allen Poe.
- 20. The correct answer is (A).** The envelope was disguised and placed in full view of all who entered the room. It was hidden in plain sight.
- 21. The correct answer is (D).** Poe invented detective fiction, which he dubbed "tales of ratiocination," stories in which logic is used to solve a mystery. Classic examples include "Murders in the Rue Morgue" and "The Purloined Letter."
- 22. The correct answer is (D).** Part of Emerson's new national vision was based on the inspiration he felt individuals could gain from an appreciation of nature. Melville, however, often portrayed nature as a savage or even vengeful force, most famously symbolized by the great white whale Moby Dick.
- 23. The correct answer is (D).** Line 1 establishes that the poem is speaking of the natural world and living things in general. Nature's children are all living things.
- 24. The correct answer is (A).** This poem reflects a spiritual appreciation for nature. The use of "aisles" compares the natural world to a church where all creatures pray in thanks.
- 25. The correct answer is (C).** The poem ends with sunset and nightfall. The lighting of the lamps represents the stars coming out in the night sky.

- 26. The correct answer is (D).** Personification is when a natural phenomenon is expressed in human terms. In this case the sun setting over the horizon is represented as Mother Nature's "golden finger on her lip."
- 27. The correct answer is (A).** These are the opening words of Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street" (1853). The story is written in the first person and the opening sentence mentions the protagonist's profession—a scrivener (a public copyist or writer).
- 28. The correct answer is (B).** Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was first published in 40 weekly installments in the Washington anti-slavery weekly *The National Era*.
- 29. The correct answer is (C).** Although Emerson wrote during the Romantic period, he—along with Thoreau and Holmes—was known primarily as an essayist, not a poet.
- 30. The correct answer is (A).** The passage is from the opening paragraph of Emerson's *Nature* (1836). *Nature* explains the main principle of Transcendentalism, the concept of a "mystical unity of nature." Emerson urged independent thinking and encouraged readers to learn from life rather than from books alone.
- 31. The correct answer is (A).** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published *The Courtship of Miles Standish* in 1858. Of the other answer choices, only Oliver Wendell Holmes is numbered among the Brahmin Poets.
- 32. The correct answer is (B).** Young Goodman Brown leaves his wife Faith to walk through a dark and forbidding forest with the devil.
- 33. The correct answer is (E).** "O Captain! My Captain!" was inspired by the assassination of President Lincoln. Walt Whitman was a great admirer of President Lincoln and published a number of poems inspired by the great leader's life and tragic death.
- 34. The correct answer is (C).** Margaret Fuller worked as a teacher and editor and wrote about transcendentalism, women's rights, critical theory, gender roles, and related subjects.
- 35. The correct answer is (A).** Herman Melville's first novel was based on this experience living with the supposedly cannibalistic Taipis of the Marquesas Islands in the South Pacific.
- 36. The correct answer is (C).** The author Walt Whitman refers to the important role played by the railroad lines made of iron that helped to develop and tie together the Midwestern states.
- 37. The correct answer is (E).** Whitman praises the prairie states as a "NEWER garden of creation." He speaks of the diverse origins of the people who live in these states, their interconnectedness, and their embodiment of America's strength.
- 38. The correct answer is (B).** Poe's *The Raven* describes the narrator's sadness following the death of his beloved Lenore.
- 39. The correct answer is (C).** These authors are commonly characterized as "Naturalists." Naturalist fiction attempted to portray a scientifically accurate, detached picture of life, including everything and selecting nothing for particular emphasis. Unlike Realism, Naturalism emphasizes the determining role of heredity and environment in characters' lives.

40. **The correct answer is (D).** The passage is from the opening of Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*. The protagonist, Henry Fleming, is a soldier in the Union Army.
41. **The correct answer is (A).** *An American Tragedy*, by Theodore Dreiser, tells the story of a young man's quest for social and financial success that results instead in his execution for murder.
42. **The correct answer is (D).** All three characters appear in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and the first character listed, Aunt Polly, has a minor role in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
43. **The correct answer is (A).** Judge Thatcher is in charge of Huck's money while he remains a minor since Huck's father is an alcoholic and unfit parent.
44. **The correct answer is (E).** A comparison of materialism versus spirituality is not a significant theme in the novel *Daisy Miller*.
45. **The correct answer is (C).** The quote is from Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. The principal character travels back in time to the Court of King Arthur where he meets the characters of Arthurian legend.
46. **The correct answer is (A).** Edna Pontellier is the troubled heroine of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*.
47. **The correct answer is (A).** "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman depicts the mental decline of a woman suffering from post-partum depression. The story has become an influential feminist tract.
48. **The correct answer is (E).** While a number of Realist works do address gender and race relations, these are not essential elements of the American Realistic literary style.
49. **The correct answer is (D).** The author contends that a novel is the author's personal expression, and therefore free expression and authorial insight are more important than a strict adherence to literary form.
50. **The correct answer is (D).** Henry James was a great novelist and critic. The above quote is taken from "The Art of Fiction" (1884).
51. **The correct answer is (A).** Jack London's *Call of the Wild* follows a dog named Buck who is kidnapped and taken to serve prospectors during the Alaskan Gold Rush.
52. **The correct answer is (A).** Twain uses sarcasm to great effect in *Huckleberry Finn* to criticize slavery and religion.
53. **The correct answer is (A).** Ambrose Bierce describes the last thoughts and visions of a man hung from Owl Creek Bridge during the Civil War.
54. **The correct answer is (C).** Booker T. Washington's autobiography *Up From Slavery* was first serialized in the magazine *Outlook* from 1900–1901 and published in book form in 1901.
55. **The correct answer is (A).** Howells's play *The Mouse Trap* focused on an incident between a married couple living in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood.
56. **The correct answer is (E).** Increased regionalism in American fiction was not caused by a lack of good transportation. In fact, American

fiction became more regionally distinct despite improvements in transportation.

- 57. The correct answer is (C).** *Ethan Frome* is set in the village of Starkfield, in western Massachusetts.
- 58. The correct answer is (E).** Emma Goldman was a Russian Jewish émigré who viewed the capitalist system as the source of oppression of all people, especially women.
- 59. The correct answer is (E).** In *Self-Reliance*, Emerson argues that individuals must answer to the truth they discover in their own hearts rather than blindly following the expectations of society. For Emerson, nonconformity is the sign of true moral maturity.
- 60. The correct answer is (B).** Each of the authors listed wrote about lonely travelers of America's open roads and wilderness except for Henry James, who focused instead on the moral and intellectual life of more settled Americans.
- 61. The correct answer is (B).** Muckraking was an offshoot of the American Realist tradition in literature that focused on the plight of poor or disenfranchised Americans, particularly those living in the urban squalor.
- 62. The correct answer is (A).** The passage is taken from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* which portrays the poverty and difficult working conditions faced by workers in Chicago's meat packing industry in the late 1800s.
- 63. The correct answer is (B).** W. E. B. DuBois was critical of Booker T. Washington for what he felt was his overly accommodating posture towards racism in America. DuBois felt that the only solution to what he termed "the Negro

problem" was complete equality and derided Washington's vision for black America as creating second-class citizens.

- 64. The correct answer is (A).** *Black Elk Speaks* was written by John G. Neihardt, a man with literary rather than anthropological training. He relied on translators and transcripts to complete the story of Black Elk. This weakness introduced many inaccuracies and omissions.
- 65. The correct answer is (E).** T.S. Elliot's poem "The Waste Land" incorporates the disillusionment of the so-called "Lost Generation" of Americans between World War I and II.
- 66. The correct answer is (A).** William Carlos Williams wrote poems with very strong visual images that were in part inspired by the photographs he viewed at the Stieglitz salon in New York.
- 67. The correct answer is (A).** The narrator of the poem is regretful for a wasted life "measured out in coffee spoons." However, he cannot act and is resigned to his fate.
- 68. The correct answer is (C).** The image of measuring out life in coffee spoons symbolizes the narrator's narrow and ultimately meaningless life.
- 69. The correct answer is (B).** The narrator fears being examined and displayed like an insect in an insect collection.
- 70. The correct answer is (B).** Determined that he would "never make a petty struggle for existence," Wallace Stevens worked as an insurance executive while writing and publishing poetry.

- 71. The correct answer is (A).** Haiku are short poem of 17 syllables arranged in lines of 5-7-5 syllables. This poem contains 17 syllables arranged in the 5-7-5 pattern. Further, the poem's use of natural images is also typical of haiku. Haiku were greatly admired models for the Imagist school, an early twentieth century movement that attempted to shed excess words to create poems of clear, concise details. This poem is "In a Station of the Metro" (1913, 1916) by Ezra Pound, one of the early leaders in the Imagist movement.
- 72. The correct answer is (A).** William Carlos Williams was raised and lived in Rutherford, N.J., a town near the city of Paterson, N.J. His work often describes the everyday beauty of average Americans.
- 73. The correct answer is (A).** E.E. Cummings was known for his experimental poetry. He arranged words in unusual ways, experimented with punctuation and capital letters, and broke words apart or changed their part of speech. These experiments in language and grammar were Cummings's way of expressing his individuality and encouraging readers to look at the world in a fresh way.
- 74. The correct answer is (B).** In *The Great Gatsby*, the valley of ashes lies between West Egg and New York City. This stretch of desolate land created by the dumping of industrial ashes represents the moral and social decay of a society corrupted by the mindless pursuit of wealth.
- 75. The correct answer is (B).** Many of William Faulkner's stories take place in the imaginary Mississippi County of Yoknapatawpha.
- 76. The correct answer is (E).** The rhythms in many of Langston Hughes's poems were inspired by African-American music.
- 77. The correct answer is (A).** Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* describes the rise and fall of a mythical Southern politician closely based on Huey Long.
- 78. The correct answer is (E).** A number of important American and European intellectuals, including those listed, volunteered to fight for Republican forces opposed to the Nazi-backed Nationalist forces.
- 79. The correct answer is (A).** The conflicts that arise between the old and new South forms one of the major themes of Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
- 80. The correct answer is (B).** *Long Day's Journey into Night* tells of Eugene O'Neill's troubled family and his father's alcoholism.
- 81. The correct answer is (A).** The explosion of African-American culture and intellectual activity was known as the Harlem Renaissance after its birthplace in Harlem, N.Y.
- 82. The correct answer is (C).** George Babbitt is a relatively content and successful Midwestern real estate salesman whose life unravels when he attempts to reconcile his urges to conform to social standards with his deep inner restlessness.
- 83. The correct answer is (A).** He is confused. He has just been through a trying experience and he still doesn't know exactly what to make of it.
- 84. The correct answer is (D).** The character's disillusionment taught him important lessons: responsibility and a love of life.

85. **The correct answer is (E).** The character regrets the loss of Rosalind and views the self-understanding he has gained as a “poor substitute” for what he might have had with Rosalind.
86. **The correct answer is (B).** This passage is most representative of the conclusion of a novel of education. Novels of education, also known as “bildungsroman” in German, deal primarily with the moral and psychological growth of the main character. The character in this passage has been through a learning process. In the end he declares his maturity by saying, “I know myself.”
87. **The correct answer is (A).** The passage is from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s first novel, *This Side of Paradise*.
88. **The correct answer is (B).** *The Adventures of Augie March* follows the development of Augie March from his childhood in Chicago during the Great Depression.
89. **The correct answer is (A).** The protagonist of the *Invisible Man* describes a boxing match (called the “Battle Royal”) between blindfolded young African-American boys staged by whites for their own entertainment.
90. **The correct answer is (E).** Allen Ginsberg’s *Howl*, published in 1956, inspired a generation of Beat poets.
91. **The correct answer is (A).** Although James Baldwin left America for France in the late 1940s to escape racism and intolerance of his homosexuality, he remained a strong critic of racial segregation. In 1957, he returned to America to join the fight for school desegregation in the South.
92. **The correct answer is (A).** The protagonist of Thomas Pynchon’s *Gravity’s Rainbow* is subjected to psychological conditioning as an infant that gives him the ability to detect incoming German V-rockets.
93. **The correct answer is (A).** John Cheever’s short stories and novels describe the spiritual and emotional emptiness of life, especially among upper-middle class professionals living in the suburbs.
94. **The correct answer is (E).** Holden Caulfield is the protagonist of J.D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye*.
95. **The correct answer is (C).** *The Feminine Mystique* inspired a generation of women to reevaluate their roles in American society.
96. **The correct answer is (B).** *The Song of Solomon* tells of Milkman Dead’s search for identity.
97. **The correct answer is (A).** John Gardner retells the epic *Beowulf* from the perspective of the monster Grendel.
98. **The correct answer is (A).** Harry “Rabbit” Angstrom is the protagonist *Rabbit Run* and a number of John Updike novels.
99. **The correct answer is (A).** Vladimir Nabokov’s *Invitation of a Small Guest* is a partly autobiographical account of a Russian émigré professor.
100. **The correct answer is (E).** Carl Sandburg was a Realist poet of the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.