To Kill A Mockingbird:  
Genre: Coming-of-age (bildungsroman), Southern Gothic

Setting: The fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama (1933-1935)

Point of View/Narrator: First person Retrospect/Scout (Adult)

Characters:

* The Finch’s (Atticus, Jem, Scout)
* Arthur “Boo” Radley
* Tom Robinson
* Bob Ewell
* Charles Baker Harris “Dill”

Themes: Radial Injustice; Socioeconomic Class; Empathy; Compassion; Courage; Importance of Moral Education

Symbols: Mockingbirds

Plot: Two strands which eventually intertwine.

* The first is much more light-hearted and largely follows the children (Jem, Scout and Dill) in their fascination with a malevolent phantom
* The second is much heavier, dealing with the racial injustices during the 1930s. It is driven by the adult world and largely follows Atticus Finch.

Trivia:

* Second most sold book of the 20th century
* In 2006, librarians ranked the book ahead of the Bible as one “every adult read before death”
* The book is beloved for its childhood innocence, condemnation of racial prejudice, and the idea human goodness can overcome evil (not its literary depth)
* It was the only book Lee published until 2015, when Go Set a Watchmen was released to the public
* Watchmen is often misunderstood
* As of February 2016, To Kill a mockingbird sold more than 40,000,000 copies, and continues to sell between 750,000 and 1,000,000 copies per year.

Chapter 6 – Symbol, Allegory, Fantasy

“The writer’s aim is to say as much as possible as briefly as possible.”

All are a means of compression

Symbol – something that means more than is suggested

1. Must be furnished throughout the story through emphasis or repetition
2. Could be any object, person, action, name

Allegory – A story that has a second meaning beneath the surface, endowing a cluster of characters, objects, or events with added significance.

Allegories are usually religious or political.

Fantasy – A nonrealistic story; goes beyond reality

Reader needs a willing suspension of disbelief

Edgar Allan Poe Bio

Poe’s Philosophy of Composition (Theory of Writing)

* “I prefer commencing with the consideration of an effect… event or tone, as shall best aid me in the construction of the effect.”
* The author’s word choice and the narrator’s tone of voice is just as important to the work as the plot.
* But… what “effect” is Poe referring to? – Effect of the reader
* “The initial consideration was that of extent. If any literary work is too long to be read atone sitting, we must be content to dispense with the immensely important effect derivable from unity of impression – for, if two sittings be require, the affairs of the world interfere, and everything like totality at once destroyed.”
* Poe’s preferred method of reading literature is in the form of short stories that can be read in one sitting, so that the reader can stay invested in the story from start to finish without interruption.
* “I have often thought how interesting a magazine paper might be written by any author who would… detail, step by step, the processes by which any one his compositions attained its ultimate point of completion... Most writers- poets in especial – prefer having it understood that they compose by a species of fine frenzy – an static intuition – and would positively shudder at letting the public take a peep behind the scenes… at the cautious selections and rejections”
* According to Poe, writing is deeply methodical, analytical, and intentional. It is a series of trails and errors, similar to a science experiment.

“The Guest” Albert Camus

Terms to know

1. Irony – a discrepancy between what is expected and what actually happens

* Verbal – when the opposite is said of what is expected
* Situational – when the opposite of what is expected happens
* Dramatic – when the audience is more aware than the characters

1. Historical Milieu – a historic or geographic setting that influences a character’s action or attitude
2. Existentialism – a philosophy that contrast the random nature o the universe with human helplessness and inadequacy of intelligence.

* An existentialist is defined through living: making choices and following through. This act of choosing gives life meaning.
* The existential hero accepts insignificance and creates meaning by rising to the challenge of events and situation.

1. Absurdism – the belief that the world is irrational and meaningless, and that attempting to find order or meaning will bring the individual into conflict with the absurd universe.

* Each person is like the Greek hero Sisyphus, who must struggle stubbornly to live as if there was a purpose and sense to individual action.
* This theme is evoked In many of the descriptions of the natural landscape, which expresses “the benign (gentle) indifference of the world.”
* Born Michael Francis O’Connor O’Donovan (September 17, 1903 – March 10, 1966)
* Irish author of over 150 works, best known for writing short stories and memoirs.
* His early life was marked by his father’s alcoholism, debt, and ill-treatment of his mother.
* Works often deal with the breakdown of relationships in the modern world.

Irony (Review)  
Verbal Irony – The speaker says the opposite of what he or she intends to say (often for the purposes of sarcasm)

Dramatic Irony – The reader/audience knows more than the characters.

Situational Irony: The discrepancy between appearance, and reality or expectation and fulfillment.

Humor: An effective use of humor in a story impacts the reader by looking at the human experience in a clever, clear-eyed and honest way.

Many of the most highly regarded storytellers are able to portray the whole of the human experience, from its most tragic to its most absurd moments.

Pathos: Values, beliefs/audience (Emotion)  
Logos: Reason/Text (Logic)

Ethos: Credibility/Writer (Source)

The Drunkard (1948)

Genre: Comic realism

Point of view: First person

Setting: Cork, Ireland in the early 20th century

Translation:

Lord of the Flies = darkness, evil, danger; a foil character to Simon; compliment to Roger

Lord of the Flies translated = Lord of the dung

Hebrew – Ba’alzevuv

Greek – Beelzebub

A devil whose name suggests he is devoted to decay, destruction, demoralization, hysteria and panic

**Twelve Great Olympians**

Greek – Zeus

Latin – Jupiter

Brief description – Supreme ruler “Lord of the Sky”

Greek – Poseidon

Latin – Neptune

Brief description – God of Sea (Brother of Zeus)

Greek – Hades

Latin – Pluto

Brief description – God of Underworld “King of the Dead” (Brother of Zeus)

Greek- Hestia

Latin – Vesta

Brief Description – Goddess of the Hearth (Sister of Zeus)

Greek – Hera

Latin – Juno

Brief description – Protector or marriage (Sister and wife of Zeus)

Greek – Ares

Latin – Mars

Brief description – God of War (Son of Zeus with Hera)

Greek – Athena

Latin – Minerva

Brief description – “Protector of civilized life” sprang on Zeus’ head; Goddess of Wisdom

Greek – Apollo

Latin – Apollo

Brief description – God of truth/light (Son of Zeus with Leto)

Greek – Aphrodite

Latin – Venus

Brief description – Goddess of love and beauty (daughter of Zeus with Dione)

Greek – Hermes

Latin – Mercury

Brief description – God of commerce, Zeus’s messenger (son of Zeus with Maia)

Greek – Artemis

Latin – Dianna

Brief description – “Lady of wild things” (animals) Apollo’s twin

Greek – Hephaestus

Latin – Vulcan

Brief description – God of Fire

Greek – Dionysus

Latin – Bacchus

Brief description – God of wine, celebrations and ecstasy

The Judgement of Paris (Prince of Troy; brother of Hector)

1. Goddess of Discord, upset with her snub to a banquet at Olympus, threw a golden apple in that said, “for the fairest.”
2. Aphrodite, Hera and Athena simultaneously find it.
3. After much debate, Zeus tells them to ask Paris to be the judge. Paris was basically exiled to Mount Ida by Priam, king of Troy, because it was Paris’s destiny to bring Troy down.
4. The ensuing meeting is basically the three goddesses bribing Paris. Hera offers “Lord of Europe and Asia – Athena offers military victory over Greeks – Aphrodite offers “the fairest women in the world.”
5. Paris chooses Aphrodite’s offer. As a result, Paris and Helen of Sparta/Troy (Daughter of Zeus and Leda) fall in love.
6. Menelaus (Helen’s girlfriend) and Agamemnon (Menelaus’s brother) vow to get her back.
7. The Iliad
8. The Iliad is about a 10 year war between the Greeks and Trojans

* Ag sacrifices Ip to Poseidon for a safe/swift journey to Troy.
* Cly has an affair with Ag’s cousin, Aeg (while Ag is at war)
* Cly and Aeg kill Ag when he returns from war

Orestes’ dilemma

Kill mom or throw father under the bus

Eventually, Orestes along with Electra kill Cly and Aeg

It was a son’s duty to avenge his father (if murdered or disrespected)

Book 8:

It is morning on Scheria

Od = sacker of cities

Conveyance = transportation

Provisions = food and drink

Alk says he will prepare 1 ship with 52 men.

Demodokos Is the “inspired singer” he is blind

Decides to sing a song about Troy

Od cries and Alkinoos notices

Laodamas = son of Alk – invites Od to participate

Euryalos insults Od line 164

Book 10:  
Odysseus is still on Scheria telling his story of the wanderings

Place #4 The Aiolian island – Aiolos – Mortal king in charge of the winds

His 6 daugthers married his 6 sons

Zeus put Aiolos in charge of the winds

Odysseus stays for a month

Od is given a bag of wind which will allow him to sail directly home without interference

On the 10th day he sees home

What is the downfall of his crew in this episode? – Envy/jealousy

Back to Aiolos – Od asks for help again – is shunned by Aiolos because the gods hate him so much

5 the Laistrygones – Giant Cannibals

They feast on the men and destroy all but one ship (Odysseus’s ship)

6 Aiaia – Circe = goddess

They explore her island

How many men are left? – 46

What happens to the men? – They turn into pigs

Who brings the news to Odyyseus? – Eurylochos

Summary lines 225-640 (page 174-184)

* Speaks to the queens of the past.
* Arete and Alkinoos interrupt the tale.
* Did you see any of your companions? Yes, Agamemnon.
* “Tell me what happened to my wife.” - Ag
* Achilles
* “I would rather follow the plow as thrall to another man… than be a king over all the perished dead.” – Achilles
* Tell me about my father and my son
* Anrgy ghost of Ajax (Aias) – angry because of Achilles armor
* Tantalus
* Sisyphus
* Hercules
* Back to boat out of ear of Persephone

“We Real Cool”

Enjambment – a continuous thought that extends from one line to another or stanza to another.

Musical devices

1. Consonance “cool/school”
2. Assonance – “sing sin/thin gin.”
3. Alliteration “lurk late/strike straight.”

Monosyllabic – every word is one syllable.

Supports the theme in that the language is simple.

Tone words – patronizing, critical (gently scolding the boys)

Gently scolding the boys yet is sympathetic.

Theme – Backward priorities could lead to untimely death both figuratively and literally.

Book 12:  
Still on Scheria; Od continues to tell of his wanderings

After L of D, Od goes back to bury Elpenor

#8 The song of the Sirens