

## 7.a1.3 Final Exam: Critical Reading and Effective Writing Semester 1

Answer each of the five questions below. Your answers should be one paragraph in length, and you should use complete sentences and appropriate tone. Each question is worth 20 points.

1. In your opinion, what makes a piece of literature last for a long time? Why do people choose to read classics over other forms of writing that easily entertain? Write a topic paragraph to discuss this idea. Remember to include details and comments about how literature becomes classic. Include specific ideas about why people read classics and finish with a concluding thought about the importance of reading these stories.
  - A classic is an exemplary piece of literature - a work so pivotal, that it completely revolutionizes an idea or concept. For a piece of literature to truly make an outstanding impact, it must resonate with the reader's emotions on an virtually unprecedented level. Knowledge is contagious. When a work influences the reader, the reader is compelled to spread the work, thus expanding its outreach. A wonderful example of this is *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie. First published in 1936, *How to Win Friends and Influence People* has stayed relevant through World War II, the Space Race, and the rise of the Information Age. The intellectual, historical, and cultural value that classics provide leads to new generations of readers finding immense value in them. By decided to not read classics, a reader misses out on generations of knowledge.
2. There are four genres found throughout Western literature — tragedy, romance, comedy, and satire/irony. Write a definition for each of the literary genres. Include key elements of each type in your definition.
  - Tragedy - a dramatic genre that features a main character that is drawn to ruin as consequence of a tragic flaw.
  - Romance - follows a hero whom embarks on a journey.
  - Comedy - features a comic hero that wins the audience's support, generally average or below average in terms of moral character.
3. There are many rules and procedures to follow during any modern legal trial. In a criminal trial, there are two teams of lawyers: the prosecution (which represents the state) and the defense (which represents the person or people accused of the crime). The prosecution and defense argue to convince a jury to judge the accused as guilty or innocent, respectively. The prosecution begins the trial with an opening argument in which a lawyer tells the court

its side of the story. The other side of the story is then presented by the defense in his or her opening argument, again without interruptions. What are the benefits of requiring a unanimous jury vote to convict a defendant? Write a topic paragraph to discuss this idea. Remember to include details and comments about how argumentation works in the courtroom. Include specific ideas about how lawyers try to convince the jury and finish with a concluding thought about the importance of rhetoric in the courtroom.

- Requiring a unanimous jury vote requires a group of many people from many different backgrounds to agree on a single thing - whether a defendant is guilty. Bias is an inherent part of rhetoric and is an important part of an attorney's argument for their client. Our court system was created under the idea that all citizens are innocent until proven guilty. A diverse jury helps weed through the bias in both side's dispositions. Without a unanimous jury verdict, it is impossible to be absolutely certain whether a defendant is guilty. Rhetoric shapes arguments. Effective attorneys take advantage of strong rhetoric to shape their dispositions in the hope of winning their client's case.
4. How is poetry like music? What does a poet do to create a specific impression on a reader? Write a topic paragraph to discuss this idea. Remember to include details and comments about how poetry is like music. Include specific ideas about what poets do to help the reader create meaning and finish with a concluding thought about the importance of reading poetry.
- Poetry is the art of conveying feelings and ideas through distinctive style and rhythm. Similarly, music is the art of conveying emotions through sound. Both poetry and music convey feelings and emotions through abstract mediums. Poets take advantage of distinct style and rhythm to create a lasting and specific impression on a reader. The emotions that poetry convey are timeless throughout the ages. Reading poetry gives the reader unique insight into ancient and present times, bringing each and every human just a little bit closer.
5. Authors often use point of view to communicate a theme, illustrate tension between characters, or create other impressions for readers. Think back over the excerpt you read from *The Joy Luck Club*. How did the shift in point of view affect your reading? What does the author accomplish by employing this shift?
- Point of view is arguable the most defining component of novels. It not only shapes opinions, but also outlooks and personal morals. *By shifting point of view between narrators, Tan illustrates tension between mother*

*and daughter and wonderfully manifests complex relationships between characters.* The Chinese mothers in *Joy Luck Club* strive to educate their American-born daughters of their heritage. Throughout the novel, there is a constant conflict between the daughters' American ideals and their Chinese heritage. Tan uses perspective to convey the daughters' struggle for balance. Perspective defines themes conveyed through stories.