

AP English Literature and Composition-Summer Assignment

Albert Einstein High School 2009-2010

The summer assignment is straightforward. It will prepare you for what you will be doing in class this coming school year, and it will give us a starting point for the school year.

Essay 1-You are to read the poem “Evening Hawk” by Robert Penn Warren. Then, you are to write an essay that responds to the prompt above the poem. Make sure your essay has a thesis and text support for the thesis. This should be a high quality rough draft.

Essay 2-You are to read the excerpt from Oscar Wilde’s play *Lady Windermere’s Fan*. Then, you are to write an essay that responds to the prompt above the excerpt. Make sure your essay has a thesis and text support for the thesis. This should be a high quality rough draft.

Essay 3-You have your choice of reading for this essay. Read the prompt and choose a work that allows you to respond to the prompt. Please do not choose a work you have previously read. Many of you read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in 11th grade. Many of you read *As You Like It* in 8th grade and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in 7th grade. We have many of the books here at Einstein High School. You are welcome to check them out before school is dismissed for summer break. It is best to make an early decision to ensure that you have the text of your choice. You also can find many of the books in the public library. You can check this website for the availability of texts <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/libraries/index.asp> If you are interested in the plays of William Shakespeare, you can find all of them, unabridged, hosted by M.I.T on its website <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/>

These essays are due on the second day of school September 1, 2009.

If you have any questions or issues while completing this assignment, please email me. I will be checking for questions during the summer.

Mr. DaSilva

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2006 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS
ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
SECTION II
Total time—2 hours
Question 1

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)
Read the following poem carefully. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the poet uses language to describe the scene and to convey mood and meaning.

Evening Hawk

From plane of light to plane, wings dipping through
Geometries and orchids that the sunset builds,
Out of the peak's black angularity of shadow, riding
The last tumultuous avalanche of
Light above pines and the guttural gorge,
The hawk comes.

His wing
Scythes down another day, his motion
Is that of the honed steel-edge, we hear
The crashless fall of stalks of Time.

The head of each stalk is heavy with the gold of our error.

Look! look! he is climbing the last light
Who knows neither Time nor error, and under
Whose eye, unforgiving, the world, unforgiven, swings
Into shadow.

Long now,
The last thrush is still, the last bat
Now cruises in his sharp hieroglyphics. His wisdom
Is ancient, too, and immense. The star
Is steady, like Plato,* over the mountain.

If there were no wind we might, we think, hear
The earth grind on its axis, or history
Drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar.

—Robert Penn Warren

*Greek philosopher (427?—347? B.C.)

2006 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 2

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

The following passage is an excerpt from *Lady Windermere's Fan*, a play by Oscar Wilde, produced in 1892. Read the passage carefully. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the playwright reveals the values of the characters and the nature of their society.

DUCHESS OF BERWICK (*shaking hands*). Dear Margaret, I am so pleased to see you. You remember Agatha, don't you? How do you do, Lord Darlington? I won't let you know my daughter, you are far too wicked.

LORD DARLINGTON. Don't say that, Duchess. As a wicked man I am a complete failure. Why, there are lots of people who say I have never really done anything wrong in the whole course of my life. Of course they only say it behind my back.

DUCHESS OF BERWICK. Isn't he dreadful? Agatha, this is Lord Darlington. Mind you don't believe a word he says. No, no tea, thank you, dear. (*Sits on sofa.*) We have just had tea at Lady Markby's. Such bad tea, too. It was quite undrinkable. I wasn't at all surprised. Her own son-in-law supplies it. Agatha is looking forward so much to your ball tonight, dear Margaret.

LADY WINDERMERE (*seated*). Oh, you mustn't think it is going to be a ball, Duchess. It is only a dance in honour of my birthday. A small and early.

LORD DARLINGTON (*standing*). Very small, very early, and very select, Duchess.

DUCHESS OF BERWICK. Of course it's going to be so select. But we know *that*, dear Margaret, about *your* house. It is really one of the few houses in London where I can take Agatha, and where I feel perfectly secure about dear Berwick. I don't know what society is coming to. The most dreadful people seem to go everywhere. They certainly come to my parties—the men get quite furious if one doesn't ask them. Really, some one should make a stand against it.

LADY WINDERMERE. I will, Duchess. I will have no one in my house about whom there is any scandal.

LORD DARLINGTON. Oh, don't say that, Lady Windermere. I should never be admitted. (*Sitting.*)

1 the Duchess's daughter

DUCHESS OF BERWICK. Oh, men don't matter. With women it is different. We're good. Some of us are, at least. But we are positively getting elbowed into the corner. Our husbands would really forget our existence if we didn't nag at them from time to time, just to remind them that we have a perfect legal right to do so.

LORD DARLINGTON. It's a curious thing, Duchess, about the game of marriage—a game, by the way, that is going out of fashion—the wives hold all the honours and invariably lose the odd trick.³

DUCHESS OF BERWICK. The odd trick? Is that the husband, Lord Darlington?

LORD DARLINGTON. It would be rather a good name for the modern husband.

DUCHESS OF BERWICK. Dear Lord Darlington, how thoroughly depraved you are!

LADY WINDERMERE. Lord Darlington is trivial.

LORD DARLINGTON. Ah, don't say that, Lady Windermere.

LADY WINDERMERE. Why do you *talk* so trivially about life, then?

LORD DARLINGTON. Because I think that life is far too important a thing ever to talk seriously about it.

DUCHESS OF BERWICK. What does he mean? Do, as a concession to my poor wits, Lord Darlington, just explain to me what you really mean.

LORD DARLINGTON. I think I had better not, Duchess. Nowadays to be intelligible is to be found out. Good-bye! (*Shakes hands with DUCHESS.*) And now—Lady Windermere, good-bye. I may come tonight, mayn't I? Do let me come.

LADY WINDERMERE. Yes, certainly. But you are not to say foolish, insincere things to people.

LORD DARLINGTON (*smiling*). Ah! you are beginning to reform me. It is a dangerous thing to reform any one, Lady Windermere. (*Bows and exit.*)

2 high cards
3 round of a card game

2006 AP English Literature and Composition Exam
Materials

2006 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS
Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Many writers use a country setting to establish values within a work of literature. For example, the country may be a place of virtue and peace or one of primitivism and ignorance. Choose a novel or play in which such a setting plays a significant role. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the country setting functions in the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

You may choose a work from the list below or another appropriate novel or play of similar literary merit.

Adam Bede
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
All the Pretty Horses
Anna Karenina
As I Lay Dying
As You Like It
The Bear
Black Boy
Bless Me, Ultima
The Bonesetter's Daughter
Ceremony
The Cherry Orchard
David Copperfield
Don Quixote
East of Eden
Ethan Frome
For Whom the Bell Tolls
Frankenstein

The Grapes of Wrath
House Made of Dawn
King Lear
Madame Bovary
Mansfield Park
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Obasan
O Pioneers!
Out of Africa
The Scarlet Letter
Tess of the D'Urbervilles
Their Eyes Were Watching God
A Thousand Acres
Tom Jones
The Vicar of Wakefield
The Way We Live Now
The Winter's Tale
Wuthering Heights