AP Literature Quick Write (Pre-20th Century)

Unit 3: English Renaissance, Drama, & Satire

Text List - Circle One

*The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia* by Sir Philip Sidney (1585)
*The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* by William Shakespeare (1603)
*Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe (1604)
“Sitting alone upon my thought in melancholy mood” by Edward de Vere (1604)
“Song for Celia” by Ben Jonson (1605)
“Sonnet 18” by William Shakespeare (1609)
“Sonnet 116” by William Shakespeare (1609)
“The Flea” by John Donne (1633)
“Aaron” by George Herbert (1633)
“To His Coy Mistress” by John Donne (1681)
“How Gargantua was born in a strange manner” by Francois Rabelais (1693)
“Summer” by Alexander Pope (1709)
*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (1719)
“A Modest Proposal” by Jonathan Swift (1729)
“The Beasts’ Confession” by Jonathan Swift (1732)

Identify That Person

Honorable Mentions

Major Literary Styles/Movements
- Pastoral Poetry
- Petrarchan Poetry
- Metaphysical Poetry
- Neoclassical Poetry
- Enlightenment Writing
- Rise of the Novel
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Directions: After selecting a text, look back at your pre-noted defensible thesis statement (remember that is Row A on the new AP Literature rubric). Then, you have one page to write a convincing literary argument that defends your thesis statement using the text. You should utilize the advanced expository paragraphing structure. Write strong, defensible (and worthy) topic sentences. USE the text to make your arguments. You should use MLA format- Times New Roman, 12pt. font. HOWEVER, you do not have to double-space. You cannot go over the one-page limit. Do your best.

Side Note: Quick Writes are intended to be that weird middle stage between planning and drafting. They are more extensive than a basic Roman numeral outline, but not quite an advanced rough draft just yet. They are the hybrid between outlines and later versions of a rough draft. They are a more realistic expectation of the kind of work you will be able to produce given the time constraints of the AP Literature exam. Quick writes (like bare minimum) include: Thesis Statement (with Title & Author)- Paper/Essay Idea; Advanced Expository Paragraph One-Supporting Topic One; Advanced Expository Paragraph Two-Supporting Topic Two; conclusion. However, if you can write more and fit more in- go for it.

Prose-Based Example No. 1 | Model:
- Text: William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
- Thesis Platform: Gender Roles & Feminist Criticism
- Working Thesis: While [x] in William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, [y]- something about gender roles through a feminist analytical lens).

Working Thesis: Even though many scholars view Ophelia in William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, as an oppressed female figure in a patriarchal society [x], her choice to control her own fate exemplifies the freedom of choice (a facet of feminine liberation missing from 17th century society) [y].

Prose-Based Example No. 2 | Model:
- Text: Jonathan Swift’s “A Modest Proposal”
- Thesis Platform: Socio-Economic Status & Marxist Critical Lens

Working Thesis: While many scholars readily identify Jonathan Swift’s satirical essay, “A Modest Proposal,” as a tongue-in-cheek critique of overpopulation [x], Swift simultaneously exposes deeper undertones of class conflict [a], divisions of power within those class divisions [b], and harkens a more comprehensive understanding of eighteenth century views of population crisis [c] [y].
Poetry-Based Example No. 1 | Model:
- **Text**: John Donne’s “The Flea”
- **Thesis Platform**: Perspective & Hidden Agenda (New Formalist Lens)
- **Working Thesis**: While [x] in John Donne’s “The Flea,” [y] [something about perspective and hidden agendas using a New Formalist analytical lens].

Working Thesis: While many critics fixate on the role of the flea as a literary and metaphysical device in John Donne’s “The Flea,” [x] some overlook or hastily dismiss the pertinent position of the speaker’s implied audience [y].

Poetry-Based Example No. 2 | Model:
- **Text**: William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 18”
- **Thesis Platform**: Perspective & Psychological versus New Critical Interpretations
- **Working Thesis**: While [x] in William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 18,” [y] [something about perspective and differing interpretations of ‘love’].

Working Thesis: Despite the rise of new formalist interpretations of literary texts [y], a comprehensive background knowledge of William Shakespeare’s personal life impacts a potential reading and understanding of the role of love and legacy in “Sonnet 18” [x].

[Working Thesis] Even though many scholars consistently view Ophelia in William Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, as an oppressed female figure in a patriarchal society [x], her choice to control her own fate exemplifies the freedom of choice (a facet of feminine liberation missing from 17th century society) [y].

REMEMBER THESE SHOULD FLESH OUT THE THESIS
- **[Topic Sentence]**- Something about oppressed female [versus male] figure
- **[Topic Sentence]**- Something about the freedom of choice
- **[Topic Sentence]**- Something about the tension between the demise of Hamlet and the demise of Ophelia

Example Topic Sentence: If Hamlet’s decision to carry out murder plans is viewed as a ‘freedom of choice,’ then Ophelia’s decision to commit suicide is equally representative of ‘freedom of choice.’