

# 淡江大學九十一學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系

科目：美國文學

准帶項目請打「○」否則打「x」	
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x	○

本試題共 2 頁

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1. Identify the authors and titles of **ANY FIVE** of the following passages. Comment briefly on the significance of each of the five passages. 40% (2% for each author, 2% for each title, and 4% for each comment)

1. In critic's hands beware thou dost not come,  
And take thy way where yet thou art not known;  
If for thy father asked, say thou hadst none;  
And for thy mother, she alas is poor,  
Which caused her thus to send thee out of door.
2. Unclean, Unclean: My Lord, Undone, all vile,  
Yea, all Defiled: What shall Thy Servant do?  
Unfit for Thee: not fit for holy Soil,  
Not for Communion of Saints below.  
A Bag of botches, Lump of Loathsomeness:  
Defiled by Touch, by Issue: Leproused flesh.
3. Standing on the bare ground,—my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space,—all mean egotism vanished. I become a transparent eye-ball. I am nothing. I see all. The currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God.
4. During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of the evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher. I know not how it was—but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of insufferable gloom pervaded my spirit.
5. I loafe and invite my soul,  
I lean and loafe at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.  
My tongue, every atom of my blood, form'd from this soil, this air,  
Born here of parents born here from parents the same, and their parents the same,  
I, now thirty-seven years old in perfect health begin,  
Hoping to cease not till death.
6. I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree,  
And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk  
Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more,  
But dipped its top and set me down again.  
That would be good both going and coming back.  
One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.

◀ 注意背面尚有試題 ▶

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173-2

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本試題共 2 頁 P. 2

7. I placed a jar in Tennessee,  
And round it was, upon a hill.  
It made the slovenly wilderness  
Surround that hill.
8. "Love is a dunghill," said Harry. "And I'm the cock that gets on it to crow."  
"If you have to go away," she said, "is it absolutely necessary to kill off  
everything you leave behind? I mean do you have to take away  
everything? Do you have to kill your horse, and your wife and burn your  
saddle and your armour?"  
"Yes," he said. "Your damned money was my armour . . ."

## II. Essay Questions. 60% (20% each)

1. What does Emily Dickinson mean when she wrote, in poem #1129, "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—"? Why is it necessary that she "tell it slant"? Cite some of Dickinson's poems and discuss her idea of the truth and her strategies of telling it.
2. In *Walden, or Life in the Woods*, Henry David Thoreau urges his readers to question the values by which they live and redefine the relations between humankind and the natural environment. What new values and relations does Thoreau wish to establish to replace the old ones?
3. Is the issue of class significant in William Faulkner's "Barn Burning"? Is Abner Snopes' soiling of the rug related in any way to this issue? What do you think Abner Snopes represents in the story? A demonic, destructive force?