

淡江大學 95 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系

科目：美國文學

158-2

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I. Give both the authors and the titles (or the first line of the poem and the poets) of the following passages 20% (2% each)

- 1) Some Books against Deism fell into my Hands; they were said to be the Substance of Sermons preached by Boyle's Lectures. It happened that they wrought an Effect on me quite contrary to what was intended by them: For the Arguments of the Deists which were quoted to be refuted, appeared to me much stronger than the Refutations. In short I soon became a thorough Deist.
- 2) "God knows," exclaimed he, at his wit's end; "I'm not myself—I'm somebody else—that's me yonder—no—that's somebody else got into my shoes—I was myself last night, but I fell asleep on the mountain, and they've changed my gun, and everything's changed, and I'm changed, and I can't tell what's my name, or who I am!"
- 3) I should be carried too far out of my immediate topic were I to demonstrate a point upon which I have repeatedly insisted, and which, with the poetical, stands not in the slightest need of demonstration—the point, I mean, that Beauty is the sole legitimate province of the poem.
- 4) There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide.
- 5) I exist as I am, that is enough,
If no other in the world be aware I sit content
And if each and all be aware I sit content.
- 6) We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess—in the Ring—
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain—
We passed the Setting Sun—
- 7) Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.
- 8) "Well," said Winterbourne, "when you deal with natives you must go by the customs of the place. Flirting is a purely American custom; it doesn't exist here. So when you show yourself in public with Mr. Giovanelli and without your mother—"
- 9) A small man can be just as exhausted as a great man. He works for the company thirty-six years this March, opens up unheard-off territories to their trademark, and now in his old age they take his salary away.

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- 10) I won't go to any damned state farm just to save you a few lousy dollars to buy more bum property with! You stinking old miser—!

II. Answer FOUR of the following Essay Questions (20% EACH)

- 1) Martin S. Day said, "Unlike the negro novelists, the Jewish writers have not confined themselves to Jewish characters and the unique Jewish experience." By references to at least two Jewish American writers, illustrate your discussion of Day's statement. 20%
- 2) " 'Black humor' finds no balance possible in this age. In derisive disdain of the modern era it will direct almost hysterical laughter at the naturalistic mess, but its closest affinity to naturalism is its underlying pessimism. 'Black humor' like the Theatre of the Absurd contemplates a hopelessly insane universe, a ghastly joke." Discuss this statement, and illustrate your discussion with two American writers who can be considered as black humor writers. 20%
- 3) William Carlos Williams said, "No verse can be free, it must be governed by some measure, but not by the old measure." T. S. Eliot also said, "No verse is free for the man who wants to do a good job...only a bad poet could welcome free verse as liberation from form. It was a revolt against dead form, and a preparation for new form or for a renewal of the old; it was an insistence upon the inner unity which is unique to every poem, against the outer unity which is typical." With Williams' and Eliot's statements in mind, discuss two American poets' use of free verse in their poetry. 20%
- 4) Harvey Curtis Webster once said, "Without the Mark Twain Samuel Clemens made of himself, we would never have had the ideal of spoken rhythms that has been the dominant stream of American writing, as deep and enduring as the Mississippi Twain 'invented,' that has given us, beside himself, Stephen Crane and Robert Frost, Hemingway, Sherwood Anderson and William Carols Williams." Discuss Webster's statement with the works of two writers mentioned in his statement. 20%
- 5) "Place or setting is seldom insignificant or unrelated to a larger cultural context." In other words, this statement claims that setting is related to a larger cultural context that is important in any literary works. Discuss the importance of setting by examining the setting of two works, one by Nathaniel Hawthorne and the other by Herman Melville. 20%