

# ***LITERATURE BY ERA***

**STUDENT WORKBOOK**

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**The Puritans' Home School Curriculum**

**[www.puritans.net](http://www.puritans.net)**

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 1

1. The *Confessions* of Augustine is an auto-biography. What is an 'auto-biography'?
2. At the beginning of Book III of *Confessions* Augustine employs the metaphor of famine. Literally speaking, what is a famine?
3. But in this metaphor, what was Augustine starving for?
4. Yet was Augustine at the time hungry for what he lacked?
5. What was he instead hungry for, though it would not totally feed his soul, and what defiled him as a result of it?
6. What else in Book III does Augustine say drew him away from the love he truly needed?
7. Which book of Cicero had a profound effect on Augustine, turning him to seek divine wisdom?
8. In Book IV Augustine tells about the affair he had out of wedlock. How does Augustine there contrast lawful marriage versus an illicit affair?
9. While Augustine was a Manichee, who had the Manichees told him could answer his quandaries concerning Manicheism?
10. What assertion of the Manichees concerning the New Testament did Augustine begin to question?
11. How does Augustine describe his mother in Book IV?
12. Under what bishop of Milan did Augustine become a catechumen in the Catholic Church?
13. Why does Augustine say Christianity was more honest and unassuming than Manicheism?
14. We read in Book VII of Augustine's being born again. To whom did he then embrace?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 2

1. What prominent features of Celtic Christianity can we discern from Patrick's "Morning Prayer"?
2. What is the theme of Patrick's "Morning Prayer"?
3. What is the effect of repeating the opening words of the poem at the end?
4. Based upon his "Morning Prayer", does it appear Mariolatry was part of Patrick's religion?

## **ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 3**

1. To whom does Bonaventure pray and long for in his “Prayer After Communion”?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 4

1. Why did Dante call his “Divine Comedy” a comedy?
2. What are the alleged 3 kingdoms of afterlife which Dante visited in his “Divine Comedy”?
3. What was the metrical scheme of “Divine Comedy”?
4. In Canto I, what description do we have of the appearance of Virgil when he first meets the narrator?
5. Why did the narrator, in Canto I, not proceed immediately to Paradise?
6. Why does Virgil say he could not guide the narrator into Paradise?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 5

1. The characters presented in the Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales* represent a cross-section of medieval society. They represent a wide variety of medieval occupations, some of which are no longer common today. List the characters noted in the Prologue and define what each of the occupations means.
2. What is a character sketch?
3. The Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*, along with the Wife of Bath's Prologue and tale, provides us with a character sketch of the Wife of Bath. Write a one-paragraph essay describing the Wife of Bath, including her physical features, personality, beliefs and religious philosophy.
4. What are some ways in which the prioress is satirized in the Prologue?
5. What does the description of the monk, friar, and pardoner suggest about the spiritual state of the Church of the time?
6. What does Chaucer's eulogy of the parson indicate about the attributes he admired?
7. What is a 'satire'?
8. In what ways is *The Canterbury Tales* a satire?
9. In the Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*, how did the images Chaucer painted of the characters through words enhance his story of them?
10. In the Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*, what do the Pardoner's relics suggest about the culture and religion of the times?
11. What game invented by the host of the Tabard Inn did the pilgrims on their way to Canterbury agree to?
12. In the Wife of Bath's Prologue, what does she say about the book "Against Jovinian", from which we had read earlier in this textbook?
13. In the Friar's Prologue, what role does the host try to play in the dispute between the summoner and friar?
14. In the Summoner's Tale, what does it suggest is the motive for the friar's preaching?
15. In the Summoner's Tale, why would the friar write people's names down who gave him food?
16. In the Summoner's Tale, the friar responds angrily to the summoner's statement about what friars told those who gave them food. What did the summoner say friars told those who gave them food?
17. In the Summoner's Tale, Thomas says to the friar that he has spent much money on friars to pray for his health, which is bad. How does Thomas say it has affected his health?
18. What did Thomas give the friar that made the friar so angry?
19. How does the Summoner's Tale demonstrate the crudeness and cynicism then widespread in the culture?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 6

1. Wycliffe, like Chaucer, wrote in Middle English. In several sentences, compare the Middle English of Chaucer (which you read in your medieval literature textbook), with the Middle English of Wycliffe.
2. Wycliffe's English language Bible, followed later in time by the King James' Version Bible, did much to standardize written English among the English-speaking people. The King James' Version Bible is written in what is called Modern English (although many people mistakenly think otherwise). In several sentences, compare the Middle English of Wycliffe, with the Modern English of the King James' Version Bible.
3. What did Wycliffe do to inaugurate the Reformation?



## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 7

1. What role did Petrarch play in the Renaissance movement?
2. How many lines are there in Petrarch's poem, and what does that and other evidence suggest about the nature of the poem?
3. At this time in history, Italians were foremost of the Europeans in sea commerce. How does that perhaps affect Petrarch's poem?
4. In his poem, what do you think the voyage is symbolic of? Why?
5. What is a galley?
6. Why might the poem's narrator call his lord his enemy?
7. Scylla and Charybdis is an allusion to ancient Greek literature. What do they mean in Petrarch's poem?
8. What is the tone of the poem?
9. How does Petrarch employ imagery in the poem?
10. What is the theme of the poem? life as a difficult voyage of unfulfilled romance
11. The form of Italian sonnets typically consists of 1 octave (a major group of 8 lines) followed by the sestet (a minor group of six lines), whereas the English sonnet typically consists of 3 quatrains followed by a couplet. Does the poem follow the Italian or English form?
12. What is a "double star", and what does Petrarch mean for it to symbolize in the poem?
13. What in the poem is said to shred the sail?
14. Sonnets often address romantic themes? Does this one?
15. What is unrequited love, and does it play a part in this poem?
16. Does this poem reflect a Biblical Christian perspective on life? Why or why not?

## **ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 8**

1. Martin Luther's 95 Theses were a reaction from and response to medieval Roman Catholicism. What do we learn about the Roman Catholicism of the time by reading these theses?
2. How do we know from reading the 95 Theses that they reflect a time in Luther's development before he had totally broken with Romanism?
3. How are the 95 Theses testimony to the fact that reformation often comes in stages?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 9

1. What is a pastoral lyric?
2. Is this poem a pastoral lyric? Why or why not?
3. What are the themes of this poem?
4. What is the tone of the poem?
5. What is the metrical schema of the poem?
6. What is the rhyme pattern in the poem?
6. How is the metrical schema consistent with the poem's themes?
7. How many stanzas are in the poem?
8. What is a quatrain?
9. Is the perspective of this poem Biblical? Why or why not?
10. What does the term "passionate" in the title imply about the nature of the shepherd's love?
11. To what aspect of her personality does the shepherd appeal?
12. There is a humanistic tradition that our problems are caused by having too many restrictions by society. If we could get away from these rules, we could return to a pristine condition of happiness. The "free love" movement of the 1960's was a modern manifestation of this utopian belief. If the nymph would go a-maying with the shepherd, they would have a perfect life. Is this realistic? Why or why not?
13. How is time presented in the poem?
14. How does the poet use the setting of the poem to buttress the poem's theme?
15. History suggests that the poet Marlowe lived a sexually licentious life. Do you think this is manifested in his poem? How?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 10

1. In what ways does Raleigh's poem satirize Marlowe's poem?
2. How many stanzas are in this poem?
3. How does each stanza in Raleigh's poem respond to each stanza in Marlowe's poem?
4. At <http://www.enotes.com/passionate-shepherd/> we read: "Christopher Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" fits perfectly into the poetic genre of the period. Poets of the Elizabethan age used poetry as a way to express their wit and talent. It is likely that Marlowe's poem would have been passed around among his friends long before its publication in 1599 in England, six years after the poet's death. Few Elizabethan poets published their own work, especially one as young as Marlowe, and so it is fairly certain that the poem was well-known long before its publication. The composition date is thought to be about 1588, and probably it generated many responses well before its publication nearly a dozen years later. Among these responses was Sir Walter Raleigh's "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" (date unknown, but thought to be about 1592), which provides the woman's response to Marlowe's shepherd. What do you think motivated Raleigh to compose this poetic response?"
5. Marlowe had used nature to buttress his theme. How does Raleigh use nature to buttress his theme?
6. Someone has written: "Raleigh combines *carpe diem* with *tempus fugit* in an unusual way. Normally we should seize the day because time flies. Raleigh argues that because time flies, we should NOT seize the day." How so?"
7. Would Raleigh see society and societal norms as spoiling love and pleasure?
8. What is the metrical schema of this poem? How does it compare with Marlowe's?
9. What does Raleigh suggest about the advisability of "free love in the grass"?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 11

1. In Act I, scene 1 provides the background for the plot of the play. Why do you think Shakespeare chose to do it in this way?
2. It is against the law of nature (as well as the law revealed in the Bible) to marry the sibling of one's deceased spouse. How is this law pertinent in the plot of *Hamlet*, and why would it have been such a poignant issue in mind of an English audience?
3. Why do you think Shakespeare chose Wittenberg as the site for the university where Hamlet and Horatio were students?
4. Why do you think Shakespeare incorporated in his plays ghosts and witches?
5. What do you think of Lord Polonius' parting advice to his son Laertes, as Laertes is leaving for France?
6. As a playwright, Shakespeare sought to justify his craft in an age when Puritans were opposed to the theater and showed from scripture its unlawfulness. How did Shakespeare's use of a play within a play in *Hamlet* serve his end, and what does it say about Shakespeare's perspective on the theater?
7. What is the debate within Hamlet's mind, voiced in his famous "to be or not to be" soliloquy?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 12

1. Write an essay describing how a character in *Macbeth* struggles to gain power and its effect on other characters in the drama.
2. What is meant by the line “fair is foul, and foul is fair” in Act I, Scene I, and how does it support the overall theme of the play?
3. What should we think of actors playing the role of witches or murderers in a play like *The Tragedy of Macbeth*? Which Bible verses support your conclusion?
4. A central question in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* is whether human society is fundamentally amoral, dog-eat-dog. How do you think this question is resolved in the play?
5. Which characters in the play seem to regard life as amoral, and which do not?
6. Probably composed in late 1606 or early 1607, *Macbeth* is the last of Shakespeare's four great tragedies, the others being *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *Othello*. It is a relatively short play without a major subplot, and it is considered by many scholars to be Shakespeare's darkest work. Why do you think it is regarded as such a dark work?
7. What role does nature play in *The Tragedy of Macbeth*?
8. Do you think Lady Macbeth is portrayed sympathetically or unsympathetically?
9. Often we can be disappointed with what we placed our trust in. Compose a paragraph showing from the play a character who was deceived by what he had placed his trust in.
10. A bad conscience can destroy someone. How did it destroy Lady MacBeth?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 13

1. In Sonnet 18, how does Shakespeare employ imagery to describe the one he loves?
2. What aspects of summer does the poet admire?
3. What is the meter of the poem?
4. Why do you think the poet chose the sonnet form for this poem?
5. What two things are compared in the poem?
6. What aspects of summer does the poet disdain?
7. Which term in the poem marks the pivot point of the comparison?
8. What is personified in line 11?
9. What does “this” in line 14 refer to?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 14

1. Sermons expositing scripture texts were a central feature of the Protestant Reformation. Why so?
2. In his sermon, Mr. Sibbes notes two general purposes of the prophet Isaiah in the sermon text. What are the two purposes he cites?
3. Every piece of literature has within it certain assumptions that the writer holds true even if not expressly stated. What are some of those assumptions of Mr. Sibbes' sermon?
4. The assumptions commonly held during the Reformation era in the Protestant nations were by and large rejected in the modern era. What do you think led to this rejection?
5. Based on the sermon, how would you characterize Sibbes' view of God?
6. Based on the sermon, how would you characterize Sibbes' view of man?
7. The sermon mentions the active and passive obedience of Christ. How are these defined in the sermon?
8. A central feature of the Protestant Reformation was rejection of Romish errors which had become accepted during the medieval era. What are some of these errors specifically denounced in the sermon?
9. The issue of assurance of salvation was one which the Puritans wrestled much with. What does Mr. Sibbes say about it in his sermon?
10. Mr. Sibbes explains how the elect's condition in Christ is better than Adam's was. How so?
11. To what does Mr. Sibbes attribute the reason why Christ did not come with more pomp into the world in His First Advent?
12. What lessons ought we learn from Christ's coming in humility into the world?



## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 15

1. Common characteristics of Puritan sermons include: exposition of a scripture text; a focus upon Jesus Christ and His exceeding beauty and grace; calling of hearers to embrace the gospel of grace alone through faith alone, realizing their own depravity; and application of the text to the life of believers, showing how they ought to live in the light of God's revealed word. Show how each of these elements is present in Flavel's sermon.
2. How does Flavel give a brief polemical rebuke to Judaism?
3. How does Flavel's Calvinism show through in his sermon?
4. How does Flavel believe the term "nations" should be understood in the phrase "the desire of all nations"?
5. Briefly summarize how Flavel answers this question: upon what account does Christ become the desire of all nations?
6. Sketch an outline of the sermon.
7. How does Flavel press the conscience of England as a nation to act in applied response?
8. Puritan sermons were typically soul-searching. How does Flavel press the consciences of individual believers in the sermon?
9. What concluding advice does Flavel offer in his sermon for those whose hearts are cold in their desire for Christ?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 16

1. How does the poet use literary techniques like imagery, metrical scheme, and syntax to reveal the poet's attitudes?
2. What is a quatrain?
3. Of how many quatrains does this poem consist?
4. At the beginning of the poem, in the first two quatrains, Donne teaches a didactic lesson by way of a comparison and analogy. What are the two things compared?
5. What is the didactic lesson in these two quatrains?
6. In poetry, what is a conceit?
7. Do you think Donne employs any conceits in his poem? If so, provide examples.
8. What is a valediction, and why do you think Donne entitled his poem a valediction?
9. Describe the speaker of this poem, based upon what can be deduced from the poem.
10. Describe the listener of this poem, based upon what can be deduced from the poem.
11. It is probable that Donne wrote this poem for his wife, Ann Donne, and gave it to her before leaving to go abroad in 1611. At the time, Ann was sick and pregnant, and apparently protested being left behind as her husband began a European tour with his friend, Sir Robert Drury. How is that biographical information consistent with what we find in the poem, and how does it affect your interpretation of it?
12. In the second quatrain, why do you think the poet uses the term 'melt' in the context?
13. In the second quatrain, why do you think the poet refers to others as "the laity", and how does this tie in with his use of the term "profanation"?
14. In the poem Donne compares the love relationship to natural phenomena. What are some examples of this in the second and third quatrains?
15. In the third stanza the speaker presents a contrast between an earthquake and the "trepidation of the spheres" (according to the classic astronomical theory that the heavenly bodies were spherical and traveled in circles). What is the point of the contrast, as suggested in the fourth and fifth stanzas?
16. In quatrain six, Donne echoes a view of marriage found in the first several chapters of Genesis. What is that view?
17. How does Donne attempt to use that view of marriage to bolster his own argument?
18. The poetic speaker, in the closing argument of his poem, changes his symbol of perfection from the sphere to the circle. In the Ptolemaic Universe, which was the model long held, the universe consists of perfect spheres and perfect circular orbits. Using the circle, what is the closing argument of the poet?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 17

1. What is personification?
2. What is personified in this poem?
3. What effect do you think Donne wanted to create by use of personification?
4. Which text in scripture did Donne evidently draw upon in composing this poem?
5. Do you think the “some” referred to in line 1 of the poem at times included the poet himself? Why or why not?
6. What two things in line 5 are referred to as pictures of death? How are they pictures of death?
7. How do these two things bring pleasure, as Donne asserts?
8. What is the point of Donne’s comparison of these two things and death?
9. In line 8 Donne mentions two pleasures or benefits that come with death. What are they?
10. What do you think is the point of Donne stating that “our best men” go with death? Why did he not just say all men?
11. Lines 9 and 10 are intended to wound Death’s pride. How so?
12. In what sense is Death subject to “fate, chance, kings and desperate men”?
13. It is said that one is known by the company one keeps. How does Donne suggest this is so indicting for Death?
14. Lines 11 and 12 also are intended to wound Death’s pride, by way of comparison. How so?
15. What is a paradox?
16. The poem ends with a paradox. What is that paradox, and how is it so?
17. Some have called the poem “*Death Be Not Proud*” a tirade against death. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
18. Donne’s wife’s death in 1617 may have been the occasion that prompted him to write this poem, as it seems it was for some other of his poems. How would the thoughts conveyed in this poem- ideas which have their source in scripture – have been a solace to Donne in just such an occasion?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 18

1. The discipline of literary analysis requires knowledge of certain terms which are used in the context of analysis. Some of the terms include: diction, tone, detail, syntax, imagery, and figurative language. Define each of these terms.
2. Compose an essay explaining how Milton employs diction, tone, detail, syntax, imagery, and figurative language to create an impression about Adam.
3. How does Milton employ classical allusions in *Paradise Lost*? To what effect?
4. This epic poem grapples with many theological issues, including fate, predestination, and the Trinity. Explain its commentary on these three topics.
5. Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts. What are some symbols present in *Paradise Lost*?
6. *Paradise Lost* includes many contrasting characters. Compare and contrast an example found in *Paradise Lost*.
7. It is characteristic of a classical epic that the poet invokes the aid of his patron muse near the beginning of his epic poem. Which muse does Milton invoke, fusing classical method with Christian theme?
8. In this beginning invocation, what does Milton state is the purpose of his epic poem?
9. Milton moves from prayer into an account of Satan's fall, by asking who or what caused man to fall. According to Milton, what was Satan's motive in effecting the Fall of man?
10. Next is Satan's speech to Beelzebub. Though acknowledging their sad and difficult condition, why does it seem Satan does not repent of his rebellion?
11. In Beelzebub's reply to Satan, how does he suggest the futility of rebellion against God, in light of the providence of God?
12. Satan is able to persuade Beelzebub not to give up the fight against God. How is Satan able to do this?
13. Given the nature of man, there are many who have read Milton's *Paradise Lost* and come to view Satan in it as hero rather than villain. Why do so many sympathize with this quote by the character Satan: "better to reign in Hell, than to serve in Heav'n"? How has Satan deceived himself, even in believing this statement?
14. How does Satan employ sarcasm to arouse the demon hordes to join him in rebellion rather than remaining idle in hell? He says, "...in this abject posture have ye sworn to adore the Conqueror?"
15. Beginning in line 622 of Book I, Satan begins to speak to the assembled host of demons. What futile hope does Satan plant in the minds of the demons?
16. In this same speech, how does Satan blame God for their rebellion?
17. Also in this speech of Satan he mentions a rumor he heard while still in heaven, planting in the minds of the demons a suggestion of what course they should take. What is this rumor?
18. What is the significance in the fact that the demons are able to construct their "high Capital" of Pandemonium?
19. Book IV begins with Satan's soliloquy, through which we have a window into the character Satan's thoughts. How are his thoughts different from what he had said to the demons?

20. Why do you think Satan is described as “pensive and slow” as he enters Eden on earth?
21. How do Adam and Eve first appear to Satan?
22. There are at least some reasons to fear that John Milton had an unorthodox view of God. Is there anything you read in the poem that suggests this is the case?
23. Some have suggested that this is “the great Protestant epic poem in English”. What is an epic poem, and do you agree or disagree with this assessment?

## **ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 19**

1. What does John Owen assert God intended as to purpose in the death of Christ?
2. What is some proof that Owen offers for what he considers to be the purpose in the death of Christ?
3. John Owen lists 5 blessings effected in the death of Christ. What are the 5 blessings he listed?
4. At the end of Book 1, Chapter I Owen reveals the Arminian alternative to the Calvinist thesis regarding the death of Christ. What is this alternative?
5. For whom did Christ die to redeem, according to Owen?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 20

1. What is an allegory?
2. The allegory of *Pilgrim's Progress* began with Christian walking "through the wilderness of this world." What does this description imply about the author's view of this world?
3. What does the burden on Christian's back represent?
4. Who does the character Christian represent?
5. What is the significance of the response to Christian by his fellow family members?
6. Christian is sought after by his neighbors Obstinate and Pliable. What is the weakness of each of them?
7. What does the Slough of Despond represent?
8. What was Worldly Wiseman's advice?
9. What was flawed in Worldly Wiseman's advice?
10. Why do you think Bunyan did not have Christian's burden fall off upon going through the gate? Do you think this is theologically correct or incorrect?
11. What lesson does Interpreter teach Christian concerning Passion versus Patience?
12. Why was a man, who Christian met with Interpreter, forever in an iron cage?
13. Do you think Bunyan's Baptist error in any way manifests itself in *Pilgrim's Progress*?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 21

1. *Gulliver's Travels* is a satire of mankind in general and Western civilization in particular. By the end of the book the perspective is misanthropic. What are the first evidences in the work that it is satirical?
2. How do grotesquely described bodily functions of Gulliver in the beginning of the book serve to presage a full blown misanthropic perspective?
3. How does the description of the emperor in the preamble to the sworn articles by Gulliver, function to satirize the political leadership of Swift's day?
4. How does the internal strife in Lilliput between the Tramecksan and Slamecksan serve to satirize mankind in general and Europeans in particular?
5. Swift condemned the cynical use of religion for petty political purposes. How so?
6. What view does the author come to have of court politics and court promises?
7. Analyze the book from a Biblical perspective. Was Swift profane?
8. What irony is found in the method of punishment of the author for treason decided upon by the court of Lilliput?



## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 22

1. How is the moral decadence of Voltaire and the France of his era reflected in his work *Candide*?
2. How does Voltaire satirize the wealthy elite of his day in *Candide*?
3. How does Voltaire satirize the Roman Catholic Church in *Candide*?
4. What sort of social reforms would Voltaire seem to have advocated, as suggested in the story about Eldorado in South America, as well as the simple Turkish farmer, in *Candide*?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 23

1. What is an elegy?
2. What is the metrical structure and rhyme scheme of the poem, and how does it enhance the poem's theme?
3. What do the opening images of the poem suggest about the nature of death and the one who died?
4. Stanza 4 says "each in his narrow cell forever laid". What does this mean? Is it really true, or is the poet mistaken?
5. How does the poem describe the lives of those who lay buried in the country churchyard?
6. What does the poem suggest is the great equalizer of rich and poor?
7. Who does the "you" seem to refer to in stanza 10?
8. What does the poem suggest kept even the talented country folk from rising to a heralded position?
9. What is meant by these famous lines from the poem: "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife, / Their sober wishes never learned to stray" ?
10. Compose an essay describing what we know about the buried youth who is the focus of the poem.
11. Why would his hope be described as "trembling"?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 24

1. William Blake was a follower of Emanuel Swedenborg. Research the tenets of Swedenborgianism, and compose a paragraph summarizing the doctrines of this heresy.
2. William Blake was an English poet, painter, and engraver. Many of Blake's poems, including this one about the tiger, were accompanied by illustrations. Blake's religion was an important aspect of his life. He also believed in the visions he saw, which may have led him to his heretical Christian beliefs. For his era, William Blake was extremely radical, both politically and philosophically. He and his wife practiced nudism in a friend's garden. (According to him, "it's okay, we're just Adam and Eve".) Blake was tried for treason for saying something like "you soldiers of the [expletive] king, I hope Napoleon kills all of you" while throwing a drunken soldier out of his garden. Blake used to see visions and hear voices, and we have sketches he made of famous people who visited him. Blake wrote poetry that largely reflects Swedenborgian views. *Songs of Innocence* (1789) shows life as it seems to innocent children. *Songs of Experience* (1794) tells of a mature person's realization of pain and terror in the universe. This book contains his famous 'Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright'. *Milton* (1804-08) and *Jerusalem* (1804-20) are longer and more obscure works. Blake died on Aug. 12, 1827. Compose an essay explaining how you think Blake's Swedenborgian views influenced his poem "The Tiger".
3. Blake's images defy simple explanation; we cannot be certain what he wants us to think the tiger represents, but what do you think it represents in the poem? Explain why.
4. Many of the questions in the poem are rhetorical. What is meant by 'rhetorical'?
5. Do you think the questions in the poem are rhetorical or not? Why?
6. The penultimate stanza takes us back to Genesis and the creation account there. How so?
7. Some have suggested the tiger in the poem represents evil. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
8. Blake begins the poem with the two alliterations. What is an alliteration?
9. What function do you think these two alliterations serve at the beginning of the poem? Why?
10. What does the imagistic phrase "fire of thine eyes" suggest?
11. By calling the tiger 'art', what does this suggest about the tiger's Creator?
12. What do you think the phrase "sinews of thy heart" denotes? What do you think it connotes? Why?
13. Mention is made in the poem of "the lamb". This is a reference to the lamb in another one of Blake's poems, simply entitled "The Lamb". The speaker in "The Lamb" asks who made thee. The answer in that poem is God. In this poem, the answer is the same. Why is it harder for people to understand that God created the tiger than the lamb?
14. What do you think was Blake's purpose in writing one poem about the tiger and one about the lamb, given what you know about Blake?
15. What is the main theme of the poem? Explain the reason for your answer.

16. This poem suggests there is a difference between innocence and experience. This is a contrast from the "The Lamb" (part of *Songs of Innocence*). The Tiger was included in a book entitled *Songs of Experience*. Just within this poem, the contrast can be seen. Describe the nature of the contrast in the poem.

17. What is the rhyming pattern of the poem, and what does it suggest?

18. Who is the speaker in this poem?

19. What is the poem's tone?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 25

1. What do you think was so arresting about the ancient mariner that led the wedding guest to listen to his story?
2. What direction was the ancient mariner's ship heading after she left port? How do we know?
3. How is the storm described which blew the ship?
4. What do you think the Albatross represents in the poem? Why? And what is the significance of its color?
5. What had the ancient mariner done to the Albatross that caused him such anguish?
6. At the beginning of Part II of the poem, which direction is the ship headed?
7. How do the fellow crewmen of the mariner display their chameleon nature?
8. One of the most famous lines of the poem is: "Water, water everywhere, / Nor any drop to drink." In its context, what does it mean?
9. Could we tell from the poem itself that Coleridge is not a reformed Christian? Why?
10. The poem combines some Roman Catholic and pagan elements. What are some of the Roman Catholic elements present in the poem?
11. What are some of the pagan elements present in the poem?
12. What was hung around the mariner's neck to shame him?
13. By the end of Part III, what had happened to all of the ancient mariner's fellow crewman?
14. What caused the Albatross to fall off the mariner's neck?
15. What is implied in the mariner's praise of "Mary Queen"?
16. In what way did the Fall of man make man "sadder but wiser" in an ungodly way, and what similarities does it share with the conclusion of the poem?
17. What is the deceptive error in the idea expressed in the poem that God loves all things?
18. The element of a wedding guest could have scriptural allusion (Revelation 19, ). What could be the significance that the wedding guest in the poem never made it to the wedding?
19. "To have an albatross around one's neck" is a phrase whose origin traces back to this poem. What does the phrase mean?
20. What is penance, and how does it figure in the poem?
21. Describe the metrical schema of the poem and how it is used to support the poem's theme.

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 26

1. Investigate the biography of poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning and compose a paragraph summarizing the tragic aspects of Mrs. Browning's life.
2. How are the sad aspects of her life alluded to in her poem?
3. Investigate the biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and compose a paragraph explaining who you think is the subject of the poet's love in the poem.
4. The poem is divided into an octave and a sestet. What is an octave? What is a sestet?
5. The poet lists four ways she loves her love in the octave and four ways she loves her love in the sestet. What are the four ways she lists in the octave?
6. What are the four ways she lists in the sestet?
7. This poem takes the form of a Petrarchan sonnet. What is a Petrarchan sonnet?
8. What is the rhyme scheme of the octave?
9. What is the rhyme scheme of the sestet?
10. The poem begins with a question. What is that question?
11. Do you think the question is directed to her beloved or herself? Explain your answer.
12. Who answers the initial question? Why do you think the poet had this person answer the question instead of someone else?
13. How does the poet express her love on the spiritual level and then on the mundane level?
14. Interpret what the poet means in the 7<sup>th</sup> line of the poem.
15. Interpret what the poet means in the 8<sup>th</sup> line of the poem.
16. What irony is present in the way the poem ends?
17. What features in this poem do you believe have made it so famous and popular?
18. Evaluate the poem Biblically, analyzing whether and in what ways it is consistent or inconsistent with Biblical principles.

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 27

1. How is English nationalism promoted in the demeanor of Miss Pross in her response to Madame Defarge?
2. *The Tale of Two Cities* pits good versus evil, as those are understood by Dickens. How does he portray good, and how does he portray evil? Give examples.
3. Much thought has been given to the causes of the French Revolution. Do you think Dickens does or does not give insight into the true underlying causes of the revolution? Why or why not?
4. What does Dickens mean in the final chapter by “Universal Mother”?
5. Often in literature a character’s success in achieving his goals depends upon keeping a secret. How is this reflected in *The Tale of Two Cities*?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 28

1. The world has long hated much of what Puritanism stands for. And many of the descendants of the Puritans, including Nathanael Hawthorne, rejected the tenets of Puritanism. In what subtle ways does *The Scarlet Letter* satirize Puritanism?
2. Is *The Scarlet Letter* fair in its depiction of Puritanism? Why or why not?
3. Most people believe the climax of the novel is when the sunshine burst forth in Chapter 18. Why do you think this is the generally accepted climax?
4. What is symbolized by Hester's removing the scarlet A from her chest and removing the cap from her hair?
5. What is the difference between freedom as taught in scripture and freedom as suggested in the novel?
6. Why do you think Hester later in life returns to Puritan Massachusetts and starts wearing the scarlet letter again?



## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 29

1. What does Tennyson's poem suggest about the Victorian perspective on the Medieval era?
2. What contrasting images does the poem create?
3. What do you think is the climax of the poem? Why?
4. What choice does the Lady of Shallott face, and how does her decision affect her destiny?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 30

1. In what respects does Nora's philosophy deviate from sound Biblical Christianity?
2. In what respects does Helmer's philosophy deviate from sound Biblical Christianity?
3. What are the evidences that Nora has adopted and the play promotes feminism?
4. What are the evidences that Nora has adopted and the play promotes moral relativism?
5. In the play, Nora says, "You and papa have committed a great sin against me." Despite Nora's purported moral relativism, how does this statement show even she cannot live as a self-consistent moral relativist? And how does this demonstrate that moral relativism is an incoherent philosophy?
6. What was Nora's attitude regarding the role clergymen had hitherto played in her life?
7. Suppose you were to encounter someone with Nora's feministic philosophy, what would you tell her to show her why she is wrong and must repent?
8. How does this play evidence that a society, having abandoned sound religion, progressively descends into moral corruption?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 31

1. Summarize the plot of the short story in one paragraph.
2. What do you think is its climax? Why?
3. A character's apparent madness plays an important role in *Heart of Darkness*. How so?
4. How must this apparent madness be judged reasonable in the story?
5. Why do you think Conrad employed the technique of a story within a story?
6. Write a character sketch of Charlie Marlow.
7. What is the significance in the story of the way the life of Fresleven, Marlow's predecessor, ended?
8. Where did the river steamboat run which Marlow would take charge of?
9. Of what nationality was the steamboat's owner company?
10. What commentary does the short story offer on "the white man's burden" to the natives of places like Africa?
11. How did Marlow first learn of Kurtz?
12. What impression of the European colonial era do you come away with from the short story?
13. Sometimes titles can have multiple references. To what does the title of the short story refer?
14. How does the author build anticipation of Marlow meeting Kurtz?
15. What does Marlow learn about Kurtz from Kurtz's Russian friend?
16. How had the African wilderness affected Kurtz?
17. Darwinism became widely accepted among the intelligentsia of Conrad's day. How do you think it affected Conrad's short story?
18. What is the setting at the beginning and ending of the short story? What do you think is its significance? How does the darkness of this setting compare with the darkness of Africa?
19. What lie did Marlow tell Kurtz's fiancée?
20. What is the short story's denouement?
21. How is Kurtz anti-heroic?
22. What features of Conrad's short story make it modernistic?
23. What distinguishes the Biblical doctrine of total depravity from the Darwinian notion of man as just another savage beast? Which of the two does this short story tend to promote?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 32

1. Into what had the character Gregor Samsa metamorphosed, according to the short story?
2. Why does the author intersperse use of the Lord's name taken in vain?
3. The metamorphosis not only seems to refer to Gregor Samsa, but also to other members of his family. How did they change over the course of the short story?
4. What is the main point the author wants to make in this strange story?
5. Is this story of any true redeeming value?
6. How does this story tend to undermine Biblical truth and hope?

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CHAPTER 33

1. The poem begins with a quote from the *Satyricon* of Petronius (d. A.D. 66), chapter 48: "With my own eyes I saw the Sybil of Cumae hanging in a bottle; and when the boys said to her: "[Sybil, what do you want?]" she replied, "[I want to die.]" The Sibyl to which this quote refers was a prophetess and was suspended in a bottle in the temple of Hercules at Cumae (near Naples). She was granted long life by Apollo, as many years as grains of sand she held in her hand, but she had forgotten to ask to retain her youth. With her aging she withered away. Why do you think Eliot would begin his poem in this way?
2. Many of the lines of the poem are written so as to surprise and shock the reader. Give some examples of this in the first 10 lines of the poem, and explain why the poet may have wanted to create this effect.
3. The poem is replete with absurdities and incoherencies. While it undoubtedly required artistic talent to write, do you think it is worth the time to make sense of these absurdities and incoherencies?
4. What do you think is the main point the poet is seeking to convey in the poem? Why?
5. Eliot concludes the poem with allusions to the Hindu Upanishads and the Christian Bible. The words "Datta. Dayadhvam. Damyata." are Sanskrit from the *Brihadaranyaka-Upanishad*. They mean "Give. Sympathize. Control." The word "Shantih", meaning "peace", is repeated three times, and is also from the Upanishads, but has allusion as well to the verse "And the Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" of Philippians 4:7 in the Christian Bible. Why do you think Eliot ends the poem in this way?
6. The biography of an author explains a lot about his work. How do you think Eliot's biography influenced the poem, after conducting an investigation into his biography?
7. Describe the trends in literature you have observed after reading representative literature from the last 2000 years.