Honors World Literature & Composition 11 Semester 2 Exam Study Guide

\*Includes multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer questions\*

***Beowulf***

1. In which period of English was *Beowulf* recorded?
2. Do we know for sure when *Beowulf* was first composed?
3. *Beowulf* is set in the pagan world of sixth-century Scandinavia. Why do we see echos of Christian tradition in the poem?
4. What is one example of the pagan world and one example of Christianity present in Beowulf?
5. What type of society is depicted in the poem?
6. What is the name for a singer of tales, such as one who would have told *Beowulf*?
7. What is an epithet? What is an example from *Beowulf*?
8. Who was the king of the Danes?
9. What was Herot?
10. Why did Grendel come and attack the men in the first place?
11. Where does Beowulf travel from to fight Grendel?
12. What does Beowulf do to defeat Grendel?
13. Grendel’s mother comes to seek vengeance for her son’s death. What is superhuman about the way Beowulf defeated her?
14. Beowulf returns home and reigns as king for 50 years until a dragon starts attacking his people. Why is the dragon mad?
15. Who is the only trusty warrior who stays at Beowulf’s side in his last battle?
16. What cultural value is shown when Beowulf’s men bury treasure to honor him after his death?

***The Canterbury Tales***

1. What event signals the transition from Old English to Middle English?
2. During this time period, English was a trilingual society. For what were French, Latin, and English used?
3. Why do the words “pig” and “cow” come from English, but “pork” and “beef” come from French?
4. Chaucer wrote *The Canterbury Tales* as social commentary. What do each of the nameless characters best represent?
5. Was Chaucer one of the first authors during this time period to write in English?
6. To which saint’s shrine are the pilgrims traveling to?
7. Know the description for the following characters: the Knight, the Squire, the Monk, The Wife of Bath, the Pardoner, the Nun, and the Parson
8. Describe the game the pilgrim’s play on the way to the Canterbury Cathedral.
9. In “The Pardoner’s Tale”, the three rioters approach an old man. He tells them to find death, they must look where?
10. Who is sent into town to get bread and wine after they discover the money?
11. The other two men scheme to do what when he returns?
12. Why does the man sent into town visit a chemist?
13. What is a main theme of “The Pardoner’s Tale”?
14. In “The Wife of Bath’s Tale”, what challenge does the queen present to the lusty knight to save his life?
15. How long does the knight have to complete this task?
16. What is the answer to the Queen’s question?
17. What payback must the knight give the old woman for her correct answer?
18. The old woman asks the knight if he would rather have her old, ugly, and faithful, or young, pretty, and unloyal. He chooses the first. What happens?

***Everyman***

1. *Everyman* is what type of play?
2. Do we know the play’s author?
3. What is an “allegory”?
4. How is *Everyman* an allegorical work?
5. Which character does not abandon Everyman at death?

***Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God***

1. Who is the author?
2. What type of literary work is this piece?
3. What does the author believe everyone is born with?
4. What most accurately describes the purpose of this piece?
5. How does the author build upon the sense of imminent destruction?
6. What is the only thing that can keep sinners from the fiery pit of Hell?
7. Explain the significance of the following quote: “The God that holds you over the Pit of Hell, much as one holds a Spider, or some loathsome Insect, over the Fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked” (15).

***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***

1. Medieval romance literature died off in the early 1600s due to which satirical work?
2. In medieval romance literature, what was the main purpose for adventure?
3. What holiday are King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table celebrating when the Green Knight bursts in?
4. The Green Knight has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in one hand and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the other.
5. Describe the Knight’s “game”.
6. Why does the Knight mock the court?
7. What does Gawain accept from the lord’s wife?
8. What value does this item have?
9. What is the true identity of the lord of the castle?
10. What sacrament do we see at the end of the story?

***The Pilgrim’s Progress***

1. Who is the author of *The Pilgrim’s Progress*?
2. From where did the author write this work?
3. You’re introduced to a character at the beginning. Why does he tremble and weep?
4. How does his family respond?
5. What is the man’s name? Why is this significant?
6. He and Pliable approach a town on their way to the Celestial City. What’s it called?
7. What happens to these men who refuse to partake in the fair according to the end of our reading?

***A Modest Proposal***

1. Who is the author?
2. What is the author’s religious affiliation?
3. What was *A Modest Proposal* written in response to?
4. Which social issues were addressed?
5. What type of literary work is this piece?
6. How do the work’s layout and amount of detail enhance the message?
7. At the end, how does the author prove his own distance from this topic?
8. What are two reasons that satire can be effective?

***Twelfth Night***

1. Who is the author of the play?
2. Know the description for each character: Olivia, Maria, Antonio, Sebastian, Sir Toby Belch, Duke Orsino, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Viola, Malvolio, and Feste the Clown
3. What is the setting of the play?
4. Complete the love triangle.
5. How long has Olivia said she will be single and mourn?
6. What does Olivia leave for Cesario to hint at her crush?
7. What is one of the things Malvolio does in response to the letter from “Olivia”?
8. Why does Duke Orsino say that Cesario should go after a younger woman?
9. Why should Antonio not follow Sebastian into town?
10. What does Sir Toby do to make Sir Andrew and Cesario frightened to fight one another?
11. Why does Antonio feel betrayed by Sebastian?
12. In the end, which three relationships happen?
13. What are two similarities and two differences between the play and its movie version *She’s the Man*? (2 points)

***Jane Eyre***

1. Who is the author?
2. What are two parallels between the author and the character of Jane?
3. Which genre(s) best describe the novel?
4. Where do we see the following elements of gothic fiction in the novel: Atmosphere of mystery, suspense, and fear, clergy, the paranormal/supernatural, melodrama/“high emotion”, and omens/foreshadowing
5. How is Jane treated by her Aunt Reed and her cousins?
6. Why was Jane drawn to Helen Burns at Lowood?
7. Why does Edward Rochester typically not stay at Thornfield for more than 2 weeks?
8. What woke Jane up the night of the fire?
9. How does Rochester react to the news that Richard Mason has arrived from Jamaica?
10. How do we see Jane’s growth at her aunt’s deathbed?
11. Explain the significance of the following quote: “My bride is here...because my equal is here, and my likeness” (294).
12. How was mental illness viewed in Victorian England? How do we see this in the treatment of Bertha Mason?
13. What is one parallel and one contrast between St. John and Rochester?
14. Explain the following quote: “I knew no medium” (462).
15. What are two examples of the supernatural in the novel?