

American Literature 1 Final Exam Potential Quotations List  
Fall 2012—Dr. Halbert

The following quotes were submitted by the class as candidates for the exam. The ten quotes on the exam will come from this list. You will need to identify the author, the title, and give an explanation of the significance of five of them. If you can identify the author and title of other quotes, you may do so for extra credit.

QUOTE: I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could.

SOURCE: Abigail Adams, “Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776” (1011 vol. A)

QUOTE: Fashionable women regard themselves, and are regarded by men, as pretty toys or as mere instruments of pleasure; and the vacuity of mind, the heartlessness, the frivolity which is the necessary result of this false and debasing estimate of women, can only be fully understood by those who have mingled in the folly and wickedness of fashionable life...

SOURCE: Sarah Moore Grimke. *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women*. Vol. B. Pg 2238.

QUOTE: “They seldom think that men will be allured by intellectual acquirements, because they find, that that where any mental superiority exists, a woman is generally shunned and regarded as stepping out of her ‘appropriate sphere,’ which, in their view, is to dress, to dance, to set out to the best possible advantage her person, to read the novels which inundate the press, and which do more to destroy her character as a rational creature, than anything else.”

SOURCE: Sarah Moore Grimké, *Letter VIII The Condition of Women in the United States*, P2238

QUOTE: “A man who is engaged in teaching, can always, I believe, command a higher price for tuition than a woman—even when he teaches the same branches, and is not in any respect superior to the woman.”

SOURCE: Sarah Moore Grimke, *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman* (P2239)

QUOTE: The right of petition is the only political right that women have: why not let them exercise it whenever they are aggrieved? Our fathers waged a bloody conflict with England, because *they* were taxed without being represented. This is just what unmarried women of property now are. *They* were not willing to be governed by laws which *they* had no voice in making; but this is the way in which women are governed by this Republic.

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SOURCE: Angelina Grimke. *Letters to Catharine Beecher*. Vol. B. Pg 2245.

QUOTE: "This principle has given to man a charter for the exercise of tyranny and selfishness, pride and arrogance, lust and brutal violence."

SOURCE: Angelina Grimke, Letters to Catherine Beecher (2246)

QUOTE: If you have made the interesting discovery that you were married for a sort of upper servant or housekeeper, just *fill that place and no other*, keep your temper, keep all his strings and buttons and straps on; and then keep him at a distance as a housekeeper should—"them's my sentiments!"

SOURCE: Fanny Fern *Hints to Young Wives* (vol. B 2258)

QUOTE: But oh, the delicious freedom of that walk; after we were well started! No skirts to hold up, or to draggle their wet folds against my ankles; no stifling veil flapping in my face, and blinding my eyes; no umbrella to turn inside out, but instead, the cool rain driving slap into my face, and the resurrectionized blood coursing through my veins, and tingling in my cheeks.

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, "A Law More Nice than Just," Vol. B. pg 2263

QUOTE: "Mamma had 'heard.' The course garment, upon which she had toiled since sunrise, dropped from her hands, and tears were forcing themselves, thick and fast, through her closed eyelids."

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, "Thanksgiving Story" from *Fern Leaves, 1<sup>st</sup> Series*, pg. 2259

QUOTE: The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her.

SOURCE: Elizabeth Cady Stanton. *Declaration of Sentiments*. Vol. B. Pg. 2270

QUOTE: No more, America, in mournful strain Of wrongs, and grievance unredress'd complain.

SOURCE: Phillis Wheatley, "To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for North-America," Pg. 1302 Vol. A

QUOTE: Remember, *Christians, Negroes*, black as *Cain*,  
May be refin'd, and join th'angelic train.

SOURCE: Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought From Africa to America" (1306 vol. A)

QUOTE: "The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart: and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by his tears."

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave (P2051)

QUOTE: If you teach a slave how to read, he would at once become unmanageable, and of no value to his master. It would make him discontented and unhappy.

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Pg. 2059 Vol. B

QUOTE: The moral which I gained from this dialogue was the power of truth over the conscience of even a slaveholder.

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass*, Pg. 2063 Vol. B

QUOTE: "The man who wields the blood-clotted cowskin during the week fills the pulpit on Sunday, and claims to be a minister of the meek and lowly Jesus"

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* P2097

QUOTE: " It would astonish one, unaccustomed to a slave-holding life, to see with what wonderful ease a slave-holder can find things, of which to make occasion to whip a slave."

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave*, pg. 2079-80

QUOTE: "They are always ready to sacrifice, but seldom ready to show mercy."

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave*, pg. 2099

QUOTE: " I never saw my mother, to know her as such, more than four or five times in my life; and each of these times was very short in duration, and at night. She was hired by a Mr. Steward, who lived about twelve miles from my home."

SOURCE: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* pg.1890 Frederick Douglass

QUOTE: "My resistance was so entirely unexpected, that Covey seemed taken all aback. He trembled like a leaf. This gave me assurance, and I held him uneasy, causing the blood to run where I touched him with the ends of my fingers. Mr. Covey soon called out to Hughes for help."

SOURCE: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*- Frederick Douglass pg.1920

QUOTE: "For, until this mighty question is totally put to rest, the worthy people of America can be no means enjoy the soil they inhabit, with clear right and title, and quiet, unsullied consciences"

SOURCE: Washington Irving (*A History of New York*)2301

QUOTE: But the most important branch of civilization, and which has most strenuously been extolled, by the zealous and pious fathers of the Roman Catholic Church, is the introduction of the Christian faith.

SOURCE: Washington Irving. *A History of New York*. Vol. B. Pg 2305.

QUOTE: "...-for having made them acquainted with the comforts of life, such as gin, rum, brandy, and the smallpox; for having introduced among them the light of religion, and finally--- for having hurried them out of the world, to enjoy its reward!"

SOURCE: Washington Irving *The History of New York* P2306

QUOTE: "I am glad to the brink of fear. In the woods too, a man casts off his years, as the snake his slough, and at what period soever of life, is always a child. In the woods, is perpetual youth."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson *Nature* P1709

QUOTE: 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.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Nature*. Vol. B. Pg 1709.

QUOTE: "There is no object so foul that intense light will not make it beautiful."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emmerson, *Nature* (P1711)

QUOTE: A nobler want of man is served by nature, namely, the love of Beauty.

SOURCE Ralph Waldo Emerson *Nature* (vol. B 1711)

QUOTE: "... as the eye is the best composer, so light is the first of painters."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson *Nature*, pg. 1711

QUOTE:" The power men possess to annoy me, I give them by a weak curiosity. No man can come near me but through my act. "What we love that we have, but by desire we bereave ourselves of the love."

SOURCE: "Self-Reliance" pg.1631 Ralph Waldo Emerson

QUOTE: There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance" (vol. B 1747)

QUOTE: "What I must do, is all that concerns me, not what the people think. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson "Self-Reliance" P1751

QUOTE: Come on, you flatters, you bargers, you milk-white mechanics, an' see how tough I am to chew! I ain't had a fight for two days an' I', spilein' for exercise. Cock-a-doddle-do!

SOURCE: Mike Fink, *The Crockett Almanacs*, Pg. 2283 Vol. B

QUOTE: "But the man in the street finding no worth in himself which corresponds to the force which built a tower or sculptured a marble god, feels poor when he looks on these."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance*, P1753

QUOTE: I heartily accept the motto,--"That government is best which governs least;" and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (vol. B 1862)

QUOTE: This American government, what is it but a tradition, though a recent one, endeavoring to transmit itself unpaired to posterity, but each instant losing some of its integrity?

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, *Resistance to Civil Government*, Pg. 1862 Vol. B

QUOTE: "Visit the Navy Yard, and behold a marine, such a man as an American government can make, or such as it can make a man with its black arts..."

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau "Resistance to Civil Government" P1863

QUOTE: There are thousands who are *in opinion* opposed to slavery and to the war, who yet in effect do nothing to put an end to them; who, esteeming themselves children of Washington and Franklin, sit down with their hands in their pockets...

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. *Resistance to Civil Government*. Vol. B. Pg 1865

QUOTE: "The soldier is applauded who refuses to serve in an unjust war by those who do not refuse to sustain the unjust government which makes the war"

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, *Resistance to Civil Government*, P1867

QUOTE: "I had paid no poll-tax for six years. I was put into a jail once on this account, for one night; and, as I stood considering the walls of solid stone, two or three feet thick, the door of wood and iron, a foot thick, and the iron grating which strained the light, I could not help being struck with the foolishness of that institution which treated me as if I were mere flesh and blood and bones, to be locked up."

SOURCE: "Resistance to Civil Government" pg 1747 Henry David Thoreau

QUOTE: "I felt that I breathed an atmosphere of sorrow. An air of stern, deep, and irredeemable gloom hung over pervaded all."

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe *The Fall of the House of Usher* P2500

QUOTE: "I was a child and *she* was a child,  
In this kingdom by the sea,  
But we loved with a love that was more than love—  
I and my ANNABEL LEE—  
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me."

SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe, Annabel Lee

QUOTE: "I and my ANNABEL LEE;/  
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me."

SOURCE: Annabel Lee pg.2546 Edgar Allan Poe

QUOTE: "For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams  
of the beautiful ANNEBEL LEE..."

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe, "Annebel Lee", pg. 2571

QUOTE: For my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—  
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore.

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe, The Raven, Pg. 2564 Vol. B

QUOTE: And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting  
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;  
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,  
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the  
Floor;  
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor  
Shall be lifted—nevermore!

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Raven" (vol. B 2567)

QUOTE: "True!-nervous-very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why *will* you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses-not destroyed-not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad?"

SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, P2517

QUOTE: "Thy black cylindric body, golden brass and silvery steel,  
Thy ponderous side-bars, parallel and connecting rods, gyrating shuttling at thy sides,  
Thy metrical, now swelling pant and roar, now tapering in the distance"

SOURCE: "To a Locomotive in Winter" pg. 3024 Walt Whitman

QUOTE: " What is it fateful woman, so blear hardly human?  
Why wag your head with turban both yellow, red, and green?  
Are the things so strange and marvelous you see or have seen?"

SOURCE: "Ethiopia Saluting the Colors" pg.3012 Walt Whitman

QUOTE: I saw battle-corpses, myriads of them,  
And the white skeletons of young men, I saw them,  
I saw the debris and debris of all the dead soldiers of the war,  
But I saw they were not as was thought,  
They themselves were fully at rest, they suffer'd not,  
The living remain'd and suffer'd, the mother suffer'd,  
And the wife and the child and the musing comrade suffer'd,  
And the armies that remain'd suffer'd.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman *Memories of President Lincoln* P3095

QUOTE: Thou knowest my years entire, my life,  
My long and crowded life of active work, not adoration merely.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, *Prayer of Columbus*, Pg. 3097 Vol. B

QUOTE: "One effect more, my altar this bleak sand  
That thou O God my life hast lighted  
With ray of light, steady, ineffable, vouchsafed of Thee  
Light rare untellable, lighting the very light/ Beyond all signs, descriptions,  
languages  
For that O God, be it my latest word, here on my knees

Old, poor, and paralyzed, I thank Thee.”

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, *Prayer of Columbus*, P3098