

ENG 211: American Literature 1
Fall 2025: Dr. Halbert
Final Exam Quotation Guide

QUOTE: T'was mercy brought me from my pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there's a God, that there's a saviour too:
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.

SOURCE: Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America"

QUOTE: It would be thought a hard Government that should tax its People one tenth Part of their Time, to be employed in its Service. But Idleness taxes many of us much more, if we reckon all that is spent in absolute Sloth, or doing of nothing, with that which is spent in idle Employments or Amusements, that amount to nothing.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Benjamin Franklin TITLE : The Way to Wealth

I have been the more particular in this description of my journey, and shall be so of my first entry into that city, that you may in your mind compare such unlikely beginnings with the figure I have since made there. I was in my working dress, my best clothes being to come round by sea. I was dirty from my journey; my pockets were stuff'd out with shirts and stockings, and I knew no soul nor where to look for lodging. I was fatigued with traveling, rowing, and want of rest, I was very hungry; and my whole stock of cash consisted of a Dutch dollar, and about a shilling in copper. The latter I gave the people of the boat for my passage, who at first refus'd it, on account of my rowing; but I insisted on their taking it. A man being sometimes more generous when he has but a little money than when he has plenty, perhaps thro' fear of being thought to have but little.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Benjamin Franklin TITLE : *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

QUOTE: Then I walked up the street, gazing about till near the market-house I met a boy with bread. I had made many a meal on bread, and, inquiring where he got it, I went immediately to the baker's he directed me to, in Second-street, and ask'd for bisket, intending such as we had in Boston; but they, it seems, were not made in Philadelphia. Then I asked for a three-penny loaf, and was told they had none such. So not considering or knowing the difference of money, and the greater cheapness nor the names of his bread, I bade him give me three-penny worth of any sort. He gave me, accordingly, three great puffy rolls. I was surpris'd at the quantity, but took it, and, having no room in my pockets, walk'd off with a roll under each arm, and eating the other.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Benjamin Franklin TITLE : *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

QUOTE: I cannot conceive (may it please your Honours) what the Nature of my Offence is. I have brought Five fine Children into the World, at the Risque of my Life; I have maintain'd them well by my own Industry, without burthening the Township, and would have done it better, if it had not been for the heavy Charges and Fines I have paid. Can it be a Crime (in the Nature of Things I mean) to add to the Number of the King's Subjects, in a new Country that really wants People? I own it, I should think it a Praise-worthy, rather than a punishable Action. I have debauched no other Woman's Husband, nor enticed any Youth; these Things I never was charg'd with, nor has any one the least Cause of Complaint against me, unless, perhaps, the Minister, or Justice, because I have had Children without being married, by which they have missed a Wedding Fee.

SOURCE: Benjamin Franklin "The Speech of Miss Polly Baker"

QUOTE: Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new World hath been asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from *every part* of Europe.

SOURCE: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

QUOTE: Alas! We have been long led away by ancient prejudices and made large sacrifices to superstition. We have boasted the protection of Great Britain, without considering, that her motive was *interest* not *attachment*; and that she did not protect us from *our enemies* on *our account*; but from *her enemies* on *her own account*

SOURCE: Thomas Paine "Common Sense"

QUOTE: Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

SOURCE: Thomas Paine, "The American Crisis"

QUOTE: urged by a variety of motives, here they came. Every thing has tended to regenerate them; new laws, a new mode of living, a new social system; here they are become men: in Europe they were as so many useless plants, wanting vegetative mould, and refreshing showers; they withered, and were mowed down by want, hunger, and war; but now by the power of transplantation, like all other plants they have taken root and flourished! Formerly they were not numbered in any civil lists of their country, except in those of the poor; here they rank as citizens. By what invisible power has this surprising metamorphosis been performed? By that of the laws and that of their industry. The laws, the indulgent laws, protect them as they arrive, stamping on them the symbol of adoption; they receive ample rewards for their labours; these accumulated rewards procure them lands; those lands confer on them the title of freemen, and to that title every benefit is affixed which men can possibly require. This is the great operation daily performed by our laws.

SOURCE: J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, *Letters From an American Farmer*

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

SOURCE: Abigail Adams. "Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776"

QUOTE: In most families, it is considered a matter of far more consequence to call a girl off from making a pie, or a pudding, than to interrupt her whilst engaged in her studies.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Sarah Moore Grimke TITLE : Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman

QUOTE: But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, persuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute depotism, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Elizabeth Cady Stanton TITLE : Declaration of Sentiments

QUOTE: "He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self- respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject to life."

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Elizabeth Cady Staton TITLE : Declaration of Sentiments
BOOK/VOL/PAGE# (IF APPLICABLE):

QUOTE: I wanted to say a few words about this matter. I am woman's rights. I have as much muscle as any man, and can do as much work as any man.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Sojourner Truth TITLE : Speech at the Akron, Ohio, Women's Rights Meeting

QUOTE: You need not afraid to give us our rights for fear we will take too much for confusion, and don't know what to do.

SOURCE: Sojourner Truth. *Speech at the Akron, Ohio, Women's Rights Meeting*.

QUOTE: I don't feel patriotic.

SOURCE: Fanny Fern. *Independence*.

QUOTE: The inhabitants rush en masse-"wife! Will you leave off scribbling?"(Don't be disagreeable, Smith, I'm just getting inspired,) to the public square where De Begnis, who had been secretly-"Butcher wants to see you, ma'am"-secretly informed of the traitors'-"Forgot which you said, ma'am, sausages or mutton chop"-movements, gave orders to fire; not less than twenty-My gracious! Smith, you have n't been reversing that child all this time; he's as black as your coat; and that boy of yours has torn up the first sheet of my manuscript. There! It's no use for a married woman to cultivate her intellect-smith, hand me those twins.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Fanny Fern TITLE : Mrs. Adolphus Smith Sporting the "Blue Stocking"

QUOTE: Everybody knows what an everlasting drizzle of rain we have had lately, but nobody but a woman, and a woman who lives on fresh air and out-door exercise, knows the thralldom of taking her daily walk through a three weeks' rain, with skirts to hold up, and umbrella to hold down, and puddles to skip over, and gutters to walk round, and all the time in a fright lest, in an unguarded moment, her calves should become visible to some one of those rainy-day philanthropists who are interested in the public study of female anatomy.

SOURCE: Fanny Fern. "A Law More Nice Than Just".

QUOTE: I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Frederick Douglass TITLE : Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

QUOTE: Never having enjoyed, to any considerable extent, her soothing presence, her tender and watchful care, I received the tidings of her death with much the same emotions I should have probably felt at the death of a stranger.

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Douglass TITLE: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave

QUOTE: But, alas! this kind heart had but a short time to remain such. The fatal poison of irresponsible power was already in her hands, and soon commenced its infernal work. That cheerful eye, under the influence of slavery, soon became red with rage; that voice, made all of sweet accord, changed to one of harsh and horrid discord; and that angelic face gave place to that of a demon.

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Douglass TITLE: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave

QUOTE: To speak truly, few adult persons can see nature.

SOURCE: Ralph Wado Emerson. Nature.

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

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Ralph Waldo Emerson TITLE : Nature

QUOTE: "I became a transparent eyeball; I am nothing, I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God"

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Ralph Waldo Emerson TITLE: Nature,

QUOTE: A man should learn to detect and watch that gleam of light which flashes across his mind from within, more than the lustre of the firmament of bards and sages. Yet he dismisses without notice his thought, because it is his.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Ralph Waldo Emerson TITLE : Self-Reliance

QUOTE: A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall. Speak what you think now in hard words, and to-morrow speak what to-morrow thinks in hard words again, though it contradict every thing you said to-day. — 'Ah, so you shall be sure to be misunderstood.' — Is it so bad, then, to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Ralph Waldo Emerson TITLE : Self-Reliance

QUOTE: Insist on yourself; never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adopted talent of another you have only an extemporaneous half possession. That which each can do best, none but his Maker can teach him.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Ralph Waldo Emerson TITLE : Self-Reliance

QUOTE: That government is best which governs least.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. *Resistance to Civil Government*.

QUOTE: What is the price-current of an honest man and patriot to-day? They hesitate, and they regret, and sometimes they petition; but they do nothing in earnest and with effect. They will wait, well-disposed, for others to remedy the evil, that they may no longer have it to regret. At most, they give only a cheap vote, and a feeble countenance and God-speed, to the right, as it goes by them. There are nine hundred and ninety-nine patrons of virtue to one virtuous man; but it is easier to deal with the real possessor of a thing than with the temporary guardian of it.

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Thoreau TITLE: Resistance to Civil Government

QUOTE: All voting is a sort of gaming, like chequers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral questions; and betting naturally accompanies it. The character of the voters is not staked. I cast my vote, perchance, as I think right; but I am not vitally concerned that that right should prevail.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Henry Thoreau TITLE : Resistance to Civil Government

QUOTE: "Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once?"

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Henry David Thoreau TITLE: Resistance to Civil Government

QUOTE: Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
Nameless *here* for evermore.

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Raven"

QUOTE: But even yet I refrained and kept still. I scarcely breathed. I held the lantern motionless. I tried how steadily I could maintain the ray upon the eye. Meantime the hellish tattoo? of the heart increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant. The old man's terror must have been extreme! It grew louder, I say, louder every moment! --do you mark me well? I have told you that I am nervous: so I am!

SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe. "The Tell-Tale Heart."

QUOTE:
But our love it was stronger by far than the love
Of those who were older than we—
Of many far wiser than we—
And neither the angels in heaven above,
Nor the demons down under the sea,
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful ANNABEL LEE:

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Poe TITLE: Annabel Lee BOOK/VOL/PAGE# (IF
APPLICABLE): 2768

QUOTE: And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
 Of my darling—my darling—my life and my bride,
 In the sepulcher there by the sea—
 In her tomb by the sounding sea.

SOURCE: AUTHOR : Edgar Allen Poe TITLE : Annabel Lee

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, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd",

QUOTE:
The man's body is sacred and the woman's body is sacred,
No matter who it is, it is sacred—is it the meanest one in the laborers' gang?
Is it one of the dull-faced immigrants just landed on the wharf?
Each belongs here or anywhere just as much as the well-off, just as much as you,
Each has his or her place in the procession.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, "I Sing the Body Electric"

QUOTE:
Fierce-throated beauty!

Roll through my chant with all thy lawless music, thy swinging lamps at night,
Thy madly-whistled laughter, echoing, rumbling like an earthquake, rousing all,
Law of thyself complete, thine own track firmly holding,
(No sweetness debonair of tearful harp or glib piano thine,)
Thy trills of shrieks by rocks and hills return'd,
Launch'd o'er the prairies wide, across the lakes,
To the free skies unpent and glad and strong.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, "To a Locomotive in Winter"

QUOTE: I have been as well acquainted with your family as with ever a one among the Puritans; and that's no trifle to say. I helped your grandfather, the constable, when he lashed the Quaker woman so smartly through the streets of Salem; and it was I that brought your father a pitch-pine knot, kindled at my own hearth, to set fire to an Indian village, in King Philip's War. They were my good friends, both; and many a pleasant walk have we had along this path, and returned merrily after midnight. I would fain be friends with you for their sake.

SOURCE: Nathaniel Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown"

QUOTE: "There," resumed the sable form, "are all whom ye have revered from youth. Ye deemed them holier than yourselves, and shrank from your own sin, contrasting it with their lives of righteousness and prayerful aspirations heavenward. Yet here are they all in my worshipping assembly. This night it shall be granted you to know their secret deeds: how hoary-bearded elders of the church have whispered wanton words to the young maids of their households; how many a woman, eager for widows' weeds, has given her husband a drink at bedtime and let him sleep his last sleep in her bosom; how beardless youths have made haste to inherit their fathers' wealth; and how fair damsels—blush not, sweet ones—have dug little graves in the garden, and bidden me, the sole guest to an infant's funeral. By the sympathy of your human hearts for sin ye shall scent out all the places—whether in church, bedchamber, street, field, or forest—where crime has been committed, and shall exult to behold the whole earth one stain of guilt, one mighty blood spot.

SOURCE: Nathaniel Hawthorne "Young Goodman Brown"

QUOTE:

"Will you, or will you not, quit me?" I now demanded in a sudden passion, advancing close to him.

'I would prefer not to quit you', he replied, gently emphasizing the not."

SOURCE: Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener"

QUOTE: They crowded round him, eyeing him from head to foot with great curiosity. The orator bustled up to him, and drawing him partly aside, inquired "On which side he voted?" Rip stared in vacant stupidity. Another short but busy little fellow pulled him by the arm, and, rising on tiptoe, inquired in his ear, "Whether he was Federal or Democrat?"

SOURCE: AUTHOR: Irving TITLE: Rip Van Winkle