

American Literature 1 Final Exam Potential Quotations List
Summer 2013—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: The authority of Great Britain over this continent, is a form of government, which sooner or later must have an end.

SOURCE: Thomas Paine. *from Common Sense*. Vol. A. Pg.1051

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: “She was gone long before I knew anything about it. 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: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Vol. B. p.2172

QUOTE: A representative could not be prouder of his election to a seat in the American Congress, than a slave on one of the out-farms would be of his election to do errands at the Great House Farm.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave”. Vol. B. Pg.2177

QUOTE: “The offence for which this girl was thus murdered was this:- She had been set that night to mind Mrs. Hicks’s baby, and during the night she fell asleep, and the baby cried. She, having lost her rest for several night previous, did not hear the crying. They were both in the room with Mrs. Hicks. Mrs. Hicks, finding the girl slow to move, jumped from her bed, seized an oak stick of wood by the fireplace, and with it broke the girl’s nose and breastbone, and thus ended her life.”

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Vol. B. p.2183

QUOTE: Very soon after I went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Auld, she kindly commenced to teach me the A, B, C. After I had learned this, she assisted me in learning to spell words of three or four letters. Just at the point of my progress, Mr. Auld found out what was going on, and at once forbade Mrs. Auld to

instruct me further, telling her, among other things, that it was unlawful, as well as unsafe, to teach a slave to read.

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, **Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave**, Chapter VI, (2187)

QUOTE: “The first step had been taken. Mistress, in teaching me the alphabet, had given me the *inch*, and no precaution could prevent me from taking the *ell*.”

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Vol.B. p. 2189

QUOTE: I was compelled to deliver every cent of that money to Master Hugh. And why? Not because he earned it,--him,--nor because he possessed the slightest shadow of a right to it; but solely because he had the power to compel me to give it up. The right of the grim-visage pirate upon the high seas is the exactly the same

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass “Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave” P2220

QUOTE: “Such was his cunning, that we used to call him, among ourselves, ‘the snake.’”

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, pg 2201

QUOTE: If, then, *we* are taxed without being represented, and governed by laws which *they* were taxed without being represented. This is just what unmarried women of property are now.

SOURCE: Angelina Grimke, “Letters from Catharine Beecher, Letter XI,” 2245, 6th Edition

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: Sarah Moore Grimke, *from Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman*, Letter VIII The Condition of Women in the United States, (2445)

QUOTE: Fashionable women regard themselves, and are regarded by men, as pretty toys or as mere instruments of pleasure; and the vacuity of the 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 from the Equality of Sexes, and the Condition of Women,” 2238, 6th Edition

QUOTE: “I do long to see the time, when it will no longer be necessary for women to expend so many precious hours in furnishing ‘a well spread table,’ but that their husbands will forego some of their accustomed indulgences in this way, and encourage their wives to decote some portion of their time to

mental cultivation, even at the expense of having to dine sometimes on baked potatoes, or bread and butter..."

SOURCE: Sarah Grimke, *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman*, pg 2445

QUOTE: But oh, the delicious freedom of that walk; after we were well started!

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, "A Law More Nice Than Just," 2263, 6th Edition

QUOTE: "I tied a wet bandage over my forehead, 'left all flying,' and sat down to it—he might as well have asked me to make a *new* one;"

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, "Hints to Young Wives," pg 2465

QUOTE: Just so long as a man isn't quite as sure as if he knew for certain, whether nothing on earth could ever disturb your affection for him, he is your humble servant, but the very second he finds out (or thinks he does) that he has great possession of every inch of your heart, and no neutral territory—he will turn on his heel and march off whistling "Yankee Doodle!"

SOURCE: Fanny Fern "Hints to Young Wives" P 2464

QUOTE: "I'm very cold," said Letty. "Does papa know, up in heaven, that we are poor and hungry now?"

SOURCE: Fanny Fern (Sara Willis Parton), *from Fern Leaves, First Series*, Thanksgiving Story, (2466)

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 establishments of an absolute tyranny over her.

SOURCE: Elizabeth Cady Stanton. "Declaration of Sentiments". Vol. B. Pg.2477

QUOTE: Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation—in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.

SOURCE: Elizabeth Cady Stanton "Declaration of Sentiments" P2479

QUOTE: "In entering upon the great work before us, we anticipate no small amount of misconception, misrepresentation, and ridicule; but we shall use every instrumentality within our power to effect our object."

SOURCE: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *Declaration of Sentiment*, pg 2479

QUOTE: To speak truly, few adult persons can see nature. Most persons do not see the sun. At least they have a superficial seeing. The sun illuminates only the eye of the man, but shines into the eye and the heart of the child.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," (P 1827).

QUOTE: "When we speak of nature in this manner, we have a distinct but most poetical sense in the mind. We mean the integrity of impression made by manifold natural objects. It is this which distinguishes the stick of timber of the wood-cutter, from the tree of the poet."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, 1827

QUOTE: The stars awaken a certain reverence, because though always present, they are inaccessible; but all natural objects make a kindred impression, when the mind is open to their influence

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Nature". Vol B. Pg. 1827

QUOTE: The dawn is my Assyria, the sun-set and moon-rise my Paphos, and unimaginable realms of faerie, broad noon shall be my England of the senses and the understanding; the night shall be my Germany of mystic philosophy and dreams.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Nature". Vol B. Pg. 1830

QUOTE: Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place the divine Providence has found for you; the society of your contemporaries, the connexion of events.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson "Self-Reliance" P1870

QUOTE: "Man is his own star; and the soul that can render an honest and a perfect man, commands all light, all influence, all fate; Nothing to him falls early or too late. Our acts our angels are, or good or ill, our fatal shadows that walk by us still."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Self-Reliance*. p. 1868

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. Pg.1869

QUOTE: But man postpones or remembers; he does not live in the present, but with reverted eye laments the past, or heedless of the riches that surround him, stands on tiptoe to foresee the future.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, **Self-Reliance**, (1878)

QUOTE: The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet. He is supported on crutches, but lacks so much support of the muscle.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Self-Reliance*. Vol B. Pg. 1885

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. Pg.1979

QUOTE: The mass of men serve the State thus, not as men mainly, but as machines, with their bodies.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau “Resistance to a Civil Government” P1981

QUOTE: A common and natural result of an undue respect for law is, that you may see a file of soldiers, colonel, captain, corporal, privates, powder-monkeys and all, marching in admirable order over hill and dale to the wars, against their wills, aye, against their common sense and consciences, which makes it very steep marching indeed, and produces a palpitation of the heart

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. “Resistance to Civil Government”. Vol B. Pg. 1981

QUOTE: “Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison.”

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. *Resistance to Civil Government*. p.1987

QUOTE: Thus were the European worthies who first discovered America, clearly entitled to the soil; and not only entitled to the soil, but likewise to the eternal thanks of these infidel savages...

SOURCE: Washington Irving, “A History of New York,” 2305, 6th Edition

QUOTE: Now as the savages...had never complied with any of these necessary forms, it plainly follows that they had no right to the soil, but that it was completely at the disposal of the first comers, who had more knowledge and more wants than themselves.

SOURCE: Washington Irving “A History of New York”

QUOTE: All this is very possible, it is only our self-sufficiency that makes us think otherwise; and I warrant the poor savages, before they had any knowledge of the white men, armed in all the terrors of glittering steel and tremendous gunpowder, were as perfectly convinced that they themselves were the wisest, the most virtuous, powerful and perfect of created beings, as are, at this present moment

SOURCE: Washington Irving. *A History of New York*. Vol B. Pg. 2307

QUOTE: Thus have I clearly proved, and I hope strikingly illustrated, the right of the early colonists to the possession of this country----and thus is this gigantic question, completely knocked in the head....

SOURCE: Washington Irving. *from A History of New York*. Vol. B. Pg.2309

QUOTE: It war then so anteluvian an' premature cold that my upper and lower teeth an' tongue war all collapsed together as tight as a friz oyster; but I took a fresh twenty-pound bear off my back that I'd picked up on my road, and beat the animal agin the ice till the hot ile began to walk out on him at all sides.

SOURCE: Davy Crockett, "Sunrise in His Pocket" (P 2488).

QUOTE: So she took and reached out her arm into a rattlesnake's hole, and pulled out three or four of them. She tied 'em awl together, and made a strong rope out of 'em.

SOURCE: Davy Crockett, "A Pretty Predicament" (P 2489).

QUOTE: "She told me that her Sunday bonnet was a hornet's nest garnished with wolves' tails and eagles' feathers, and that she wore a bran new goun, made of a whole bear's-hide, the tail serving for a train."

SOURCE: Davy Crockett, "A Pretty Predicament," pg 2490

QUOTE: But the youngest o' my darters takes arter me, and is of the regular earthquake natur. Her body's flint rock, her soul's lightning, her fist is a thunderbolt, and her teeth can out-cut any steam-mill saw in creation. She is a parfect infant prodigy, being only six years old; she has the biggest foot and widest mouth in all the west, and when she grins, she is splendiferous; she shows most beautiful intarnals, and can scare a flock o' wolves to total terrifications.

SOURCE: Davy Crockett, "Crockett's Daughters," (P 2491).

QUOTE: The varmints knew as soon as they got hold of her that she war one of my breed, by her thunderbolt kickin', and they determined to cook half of her and eat the other half alive, out of revenge for the many lickin's I gin' em.

SOURCE: Davy Crockett. Crockett's Daughters. Vol B. Pg. 2490

QUOTE: Jist as he war a-comin' to her a second time, the little gal grinned sich a double streak o' blue lightning into his mouth that it cooked the critter to death as quick as think. She brought him home for dinner.

SOURCE: Davy Crockett, *from The Crockett Almanacs*, Crockett's Daughters, (2491)

QUOTE: I can out-run, out-jump, out-shoot, out-brag, out-drink, an' out-fight, rough-an'-tumble, no holts barred, ary man on both sides the river from Pittsburgh to New Orleans an' back ag'in to St. Louiee.

SOURCE: Mike Fink, "Mike Fink's Brag," (P 2492).

QUOTE: She then found a pile o' ropes, too, and tied all the Injun's heels together all round the fire,-- then fixin a cord to the shins of every two couple, she, with a suddenachous jerk, that made the intire woods tremble, pulled the intire lot o' sleepin' red-skins into that ar great fire, fast together, an' then sloped like a panther out of her pen

SOURCE: Mike Fink "Sal Fink, the Mississippi Screamer How She Cooked Injuns"

QUOTE: With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven
Coveted her and me.

SOURCE: Edgar Alan Poe, "Annabel Lee," 2571, 6th Edition

QUOTE : The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,
Went envying her and me—
Yes!—that was the reason (as all men know,
In this kingdom by the sea)
That the wind came out of the cloud by night,
Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.

SOURCE: Edgar Alan Poe, "Annabel Lee," 2571, 6th Edition

QUOTE: I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture – a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees – very gradually – I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart," (P 2727).

QUOTE: I felt that I must scream or die! and now-again!-hark! louder! louder! louder! louder!

SOURCE: Edgar Alan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart," 2519, 6th Edition

QUOTE: "Villains!" I shrieked, "dissemble no more! I admit the deed!--- tear up the planks! Here, here! It is the beating of his hideous heart!"

SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe. *The Tell-Tale Heart*. Vol. B p.2731

QUOTE: The discoloration of ages had been great. Minute fungi overspread the whole exterior, hanging in fine tangled web-work from the eaves.

SOURCE: Edgar Alan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher," 2499, 6th Edition

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