

ENGLISH 211: American Literature I (Summer 2012—Halbert)  
Final Exam Quotation Guide

QUOTE: 'Twas 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", Pg 1306

QUOTE: Even the distance at which the almighty hath placed England and America is a strong and natural proof that the authority of the one over the other, was never the design of Heaven.

SOURCE: "Common Sense", Thomas Paine (995)

QUOTE: As parents, we can have no joy, knowing that this government is not sufficiently lasting to ensure any thing which we may bequeath to posterity

SOURCE: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*. Vol A. Pg 995

QUOTE: I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish.

SOURCE: "The American Crisis", Thomas Paine (998)

QUOTE: I long hear that you have declared an independency—and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors.

SOURCE: *Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776*, Abigail Adams (1011)

QUOTE: Regard us then as Beings placed by providence under your protection and in imitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.

SOURCE: Abigail Adams, "Letter to John Adams" P1011

QUOTE: And now I speak thanking God, I desire with all Humility to acknowledge, that I owe the mention'd Happiness of my past Life to his kind Providence, which led me to Means I us'd and gave them Success.

SOURCE: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography*, Pg 862

QUOTE: From a Child I was fond of Reading, and all the little Money that came into my Hands was ever laid out in Books.

SOURCE: "The Autobiography", Benjamin Franklin (867)

QUOTE: Often I sat up in my Room reading the greatest Part of the Night, when the Book was borrow'd in the Evening and to be return'd early in the Morning lest it should be miss'd or wanted.

SOURCE: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* P868

QUOTE: and I found by his own Account and what I had heard from others, that he had been drunk every day since his Arrival at New York, and behav'd very oddly. He had gam'd too and lost his Money, so that I was oblig'd to discharge his Lodgings

SOURCE: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography*. Vol A. Pg 881

QUOTE: He let me into Keith's Character, told me there was not the least Probability that he had written any Letters for me, that no one who knew him had the smallest Dependance on him, and he laugh't at the Notion of the Governor's giving me a Letter of Credit, having as he said no Credit to give.

SOURCE: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* P886

QUOTE: He would whip her to make her scream, and whip her to make her hush; and not until overcome by fatigue, would he cease to swing the blood-clotted cowskin.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself* P2047

QUOTE: No words, no tears, no prayers, from his gory victim seemed to move his iron heart from its bloody purpose.

SOURCE: "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave", Frederick Douglass (2047)

QUOTE: She at first lacked the depravity indispensable to shutting me up in mental darkness. It was at least necessary for her to have some training in the exercise of irresponsible power, to make her equal to the task of treating me as though I were a brute.

QUOTE: I now understood what had been to me a most perplexing difficulty-to wit, the white man's power to enslave the black man. It was a grand achievement and I prized it highly. From that moment, I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom. It was just what I wanted, and I got it at a time when I the least expected it. Whilst I was saddened by the thought of losing the aid of my kind mistress, I was gladdened by the invaluable instruction which, by the merest accident, I had gained from my master.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, P. 2060

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. Vol B. Pg 2061

QUOTE: At this moment, I saw more clearly than ever the brutalizing effects of slavery upon both slave and slaveholder.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass—*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*—Pg. 2065

QUOTE: “I think I never hated slavery so intensely as at that moment; certainly, my perception of the enormous outrage which is inflicted by it, on the godlike nature of its victims, was rendered far more clear than ever.”

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass “*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, pg. 2038

QUOTE: They never knew what when they were safe from punishment. They were frequently whipped when least deserving, and escaped whipping when most deserving it.

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, an American Slave*, P 2052

QUOTE: They seldom think that men will be allured by intellectual acquirements, because they find, 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 Grimke. *Letter VIII The Condition of Women in the United States*. Vol. B. Pg. 2238.

QUOTE: This being the case by the very ordering of nature, women should be prepared by education for the performance of their sacred duties as mothers and sisters....

SOURCE: Sarah Moore Grimke—*Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Women*—Pg. 2239

QUOTE: All I complain of is that our education consists so almost exclusively in culinary and other manual operations.

SOURCE: *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Women*, Sarah Moore Grimke (2239)

QUOTE: If the minds of women were enlightened and improved, the domestic circle would be more frequently refreshed by intelligent conversation, a means of edification now deplorably neglected, for want of that cultivation which these intellectual advantages would confer...

SOURCE: Sarah Moore Grimke, *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes...*, P. 2243

QUOTE: God designed women to possess in common with men, and to maintain those rights and exercise those privileges which every woman's common sense, apart from the prejudices of education, tells her are inalienable; they are part of her moral nature, and can only cease when her immortal mind is extinguished.

SOURCE: Sarah Moore Grimke, *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes*, P 2243

QUOTE: The right of petition is the only political right that women have: why not let them exercise it whenever they are aggrieved?

SOURCE: Angelina Grimke, *Letters to Catharine Beecher*, P 2245

QUOTE: Human beings have *rights*, because they are *moral* beings: the rights of *all* men grow out of their moral nature; and as all men have the same moral nature, they have essentially the same rights...

SOURCE: Angelina Grimke, *Letters to Catharine Beecher*, P. 2246

QUOTE: "I recognize not rights but *human* rights – I know nothing of men's rights and women's rights; for in Christ Jesus, there is neither male nor female"

SOURCE: Angelina Grimke "Letters to Catharine Beecher", pg. 2247

QUOTE: The minute she sees her husband coming up the street, she makes for the door, as if she hadn't another minute to live, stands in the entry with her teeth chattering in her head till he gets all his coats and mufflers, and overshoes, and what-do-you-call'-ems off, then chases round (like a cat in a fit) after the boot-jack; warms his slippers and puts 'em on, and dislocates her wrist carving at the table for fear it will tire him.

SOURCE: Fanny Fern *Hints to Young Wives*. Vol. B. Pg. 2257.

QUOTE: Now it's no use to take your pocket handkerchief and go sniveling around the house with a pink nose and red eyes, not a bit of it!

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, *Hints to Young Wives*, Pg 2258

QUOTE: Can I go to see anything *pleasant*, like an execution or dissection?

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, "Independence." Vol B. Pg 2264

QUOTE: Well—I don't feel patriotic. Perhaps I might if they would stop that deafening racket. Washington was very well, if he *couldn't* spell, and I'm glad we are all free; but as a woman—I shouldn't know it, didn't some orator tell me.

SOURCE: Franny Fern, "Independence.", P. 2265

QUOTE: Why, these creatures bear it, from seven in the morning till six in the evening; week after week, month after month, with only half an hour at mid-day to eat their dinner of a slice of bread and butter or an apple, which they usually eat in the building, some of them having come a long distance.

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, *The Working-Girls of New York*, P 2265

QUOTE: But if a man would be alone, let him look at the stars. The rays that come from those heavenly worlds, will separate between him and what he touches.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Nature*. Vol. B Pg. 1708

QUOTE: If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" P1708

QUOTE: To speak truly, few adult persons can see nature. Most persons do not see the sun. At least they have a very superficial seeing.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature", Pg 1709

QUOTE: 'The sun illuminates only the eye of the man, but shines into the eye and the heart of a child'

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson "nature", pg. 1709

QUOTE: In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life,-no disgrace, no calamity, (leaving me my eyes,) which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground,-my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space,-all mean egotism vanishes.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, P 1709

QUOTE: Even the corpse hath its own beauty.

SOURCE: "Nature", Ralph Emerson (1711)

QUOTE: Nothing is quite beautiful alone: nothing but is beautiful in the whole.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson – *Nature* – Pg. 1714

QUOTE: The production of a work of art throws a light upon the mystery of humanity. A work of art is an abstract or epitome of the world.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, P. 1714

QUOTE: The other terror that scares us from self-trust is our consistency; a reverence for our past act or word, because the eyes of others have no other data for computing our orbit than our past acts, and we are loath to disappoint them.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance*, P. 1751

QUOTE: Shakespeare will never be made by the study of Shakespeare. Do that which is assigned you, and you cannot hope too much or dare too much.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance*. Vol B. Pg. 1761

QUOTE: After all, the practical reason why, when the power is once in the hands of the people, a majority are permitted, and for a long period continue, to rule, is not because they are most likely to be in the right, not because this seems fairest to the minority, but because they are physically the strongest.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau—“Resistance to Civil Government”—Pg. 1863

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’

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau “Resistance to Civil Government, pg. 1864

QUOTE: Why does it always crucify Christ, and excommunicate Copernicus and Luther, and pronounce Washington and Franklin rebels?

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, *Resistance to Civil Government*. Vol B. Pg 1867

QUOTE: I cast my vote, perchance, as I think right; but I am not vitally concerned that that right should prevail. I am willing to leave it to the majority.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government” P1867

QUOTE: The broadest and most prevalent error requires the most disinterested virtue to sustain it. The slight reproach to which the virtue of patriotism is commonly liable, the noble are most likely to incur.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. *Resistance to Civil Government*. Vol. B. Pg. 1867.

QUOTE: All voting is a sort of gaming, like chequers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right a wrong, with moral questions; and betting naturally accompanies it.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, *Resistance to Civil Disobedience*, P. 1867

QUOTE: Even voting, *for the right* is *doing* nothing for it. It is only expressing to men feebly your desire that it should prevail.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, *Resistance to Civil Government*, P 1866

QUOTE: It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe—"The Tell Tale Heart"—Pg. 2519

QUOTE: The angels, not half so happy in heaven,  
Went envying her and me-  
Yes!-that was the reason

SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe, *Annabel Lee*. Vol B. Pg 2571

QUOTE: My readers shall now see with astonishment, how easily I will vanquish this gigantic doubt, which has so long been the terror of adventurous writers; which has withstood so many fierce assaults, and has given such great distress of mind to multitudes of kind-hearted folks.

SOURCE: Washington Irving. *A History of New York*. Vol. B. Pg.2301

QUOTE: The first source of right, by which property is acquired in a country, is discovery.

SOURCE: Washington Irving, *A History of New York*, Pg 2301

QUOTE: ...that heaven intended the earth should be ploughed and sown, and manured, and laid out into cities and towns and farms, and country seats, and pleasure grounds, and public gardens, and all which the Indians knew nothing about- therefore they were careless stewards-therefore they had no right to the soil-therefore they deserved to be exterminated.

SOURCE: Washington Irving, *A History of New York*, P 2303

QUOTE: Let us suppose a roving crew of these soaring philosophers, in the course of an aerial voyage of discovery among the stars, should chance to alight upon this outlandish planet.

SOURCE: Washington Irving, *A History of New York* P2306

QUOTE: 'I always had the praise o' raisin the tallest and fattest, and sassiest gals in all America'

SOURCE: Davy Crockett "Crockett's Daughters", pg. 2282

QUOTE: I'm a Salt River roarer! I'm a ring-tailed squealer! I'm a reg'lar screamer from the ol' Massassip!'

SOURCE: Mike Fink. *Mike Fink's Brag*. Vol. B. Pg. 2283.

QUOTE: I can hit like fourth-proof lightnin' an' every lick I make in the woods lets in an acre o' sunshine.

SOURCE: Mike Fink— *Mike Fink's Brag* — Pg. 2283

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'm spilein' for exercise. Cock-a-doddle-do!"

SOURCE: Mike Fink "Mike Fink's Brag", pg. 2283

QUOTE: "Thee in thy panoply, thy measur'd dual throbbing and thy beat convulsive,  
Thy black cylindrical body, golden brass and silvery steel  
...thy metrical, now swelling pant and roar, now tapering in the distance" (3100)

SOURCE: Walt Whitman "To a Locomotive in Winter"

QUOTE:  
O powerful western fallen star!  
O shades of night-O moody, tearful night!  
O great star disappear'd-O the black murk that hides the star!  
O cruel hands that hold me powerless- O helpless soul of me!  
O harsh surrounding cloud that will not free my soul.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd", Vol. B, pg. 3089

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*. Vol. B. Pg 3089

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 earth-quake, 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 hill return'd

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, *To a Locomotive in Winter*, 3100

QUOTE:

A batter'd, wreck'd old man,  
Thrown on this savage shore, far, far from home,  
Pent by the sea and dark rebellious brows, twelve dreary months,  
Sore, stiff with many toils, sicken'd and nigh to death,  
I take my way along the island's edge,  
Venting a heavy heart.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, "Prayer of Columbus", Vol. B. pg 3098