

LITERATURE

Water: An Enduring Element in Literature

- I. CRITICAL READING 15%
 - A. Purpose and Main Idea
 - B. Structure
 - C. Restatement of Information
 - D. Genres and their Characteristics
 - E. Language and Tone
 - F. Grammar and Syntax
 - G. Vocabulary in Context
 - H. Diction

- II. WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: A PERSISTENT THEME 10%
 - A. Historical Overview: The Stories of Water
 - 1. Ancient Times and the Middle Ages
 - 2. The Age of Discovery
 - 3. The Eighteenth Century
 - 4. The Nineteenth Century
 - 5. The Twentieth Century
 - 6. The Twenty-First Century
 - 7. A Diversity of Texts
 - B. Recurrent Themes and Symbols: The Meaning of Water
 - 1. Destruction
 - 2. Purity and Purification
 - 3. Depth and the Unknown
 - 4. Movement
 - 5. Revelation and Release

- III. JACK LONDON'S *THE SEA-WOLF* 40%
 - A. Genre: A Historical Overview of Nautical Fiction
 - 1. Masculinity
 - 2. Class Issues
 - 3. Industry and Capitalism
 - 4. Issues of Race
 - B. A Superb Meteor: The Life and Adventures of Jack London
 - C. Plot and Structure: Summarizing *The Sea-Wolf*
 - D. Historical Context: The Clubs of Inspiration for *The Sea-Wolf*
 - 1. Personal Context: London Among the Sailors
 - 2. Historical Context: Early Industrial Setting
 - 3. Philosophical and Scientific Context: Existential Inspiration
 - a. The Influence of Nietzsche
 - b. The Influence of Schopenhauer
 - c. The Influence of Darwin and Spencer

4. Literary Context: Realism and Naturalism
- E. Characters: Key Players in *The Sea-Wolf*
 1. Humphrey Van Weyden
 2. Captain Wolf Larsen
 3. Maud Brewster
 4. The Seamen
- F. Themes: Persistent Motifs in *The Sea-Wolf*
 1. Philosophy, Evolution, and the Nature of Man
 2. Masculinity and Femininity
 3. Capitalism and Class Struggle
 4. Fairness and Determinism
- G. Water: A Most Necessary Part of *The Sea-Wolf*
 1. Setting
 2. Imagery
 3. Symbolism
 4. Style and Genre

IV. SHORTER SELECTIONS 35%

- A. Fiction: Flannery O'Connor's "The River" (1955)
 1. Flannery O'Connor's Biography and Background
 2. SELECTED WORK: "THE RIVER" BY FLANNERY O'CONNOR
 3. Analysis of Flannery O'Connor's "The River"
- B. Fiction: John Cheever's "The Swimmer" (1964)
 1. John Cheever's Biography and Background
 2. SELECTED WORK: "THE SWIMMER" BY JOHN CHEEVER
 3. Analysis of John Cheever's "The Swimmer"
- C. Fiction: Neil Gaiman's "Down to a Sunless Sea" (2013)
 1. Neil Gaiman's Biography and Background
 2. SELECTED WORK: "DOWN TO A SUNLESS SEA" BY NEIL GAIMAN
 3. Analysis of Neil Gaiman's "Down to a Sunless Sea"
- D. Poetry: Sterling Brown's "Children of the Mississippi" (1932)
 1. Sterling Brown's Biography
 2. Background
 3. SELECTED WORK: "CHILDREN OF THE MISSISSIPPI" BY STERLING BROWN
 4. Analysis of Sterling Brown's "Children of the Mississippi"
- E. Poetry: Askia Touré's "Floodtide" (1963)
 1. Askia Touré's Biography
 2. Background
 3. SELECTED WORK: ASKIA TOURÉ'S "FLOODTIDE"
 4. Analysis of Askia M. Touré's "Floodtide"
- F. Poetry: Adrienne Rich's "Diving into the Wreck" (1973)
 1. Adrienne Rich's Biography and Background
 2. SELECTED WORK: "DIVING INTO THE WRECK" BY ADRIENNE RICH
 3. Analysis of Adrienne Rich's "Diving into the Wreck"
- G. Poetry: David Slavitt's "Titanic" (1983)
 1. David Slavitt's Biography

2. Background
 3. SELECTED WORK: DAVID SLAVITT'S "TITANIC"
 4. Analysis of David Slavitt's "Titanic"
- H. Poetry: Derek Mahon's "After the Titanic" (1985)
1. Derek Mahon's Biography
 2. Background
 3. SELECTED WORK: DEREK MAHON'S "AFTER THE TITANIC"
 4. Analysis of Derek Mahon's "After the Titanic"
- I. Poetry: Tarfia Faizullah's "I Told the Water" (2016)
1. Tarfia Faizullah's Biography
 2. Background
 3. SELECTED WORK: TARFIA FAIZULLAH'S "I TOLD THE WATER"
 4. Analysis of Tarfia Faizullah's "I Told the Water"
- J. Poetry: Natalie Diaz's "The First Water Is the Body" (2020)
1. Natalie Diaz's Biography
 2. Background
 3. SELECTED WORK: NATALIE DIAZ'S "THE FIRST WATER IS THE BODY"
 4. Analysis of Natalie Diaz's "The First Water Is the Body"