

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

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*, p. 993

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” (Pg. 993)

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” (Vol A P998)

QUOTE: “Ye that oppose independence now, ye know not what ye do: ye are opening the door to eternal tyranny by keeping vacant the seat of government.”

SOURCE: Thomas Paine, “Common Sense”

QUOTE: “I thank God, that I fear not, I see no real cause for fear. I know our situation well, and can see a way out of it.”

SOURCE: Thomas Paine- *Age of Reason*

QUOTE: There are also many who have been so enthusiastically enraptured by what they conceived to be the infinite love of God to man; in making a sacrifice of himself, that the vehemence of the idea has forbidden and deterred them from examining into the absurdity and profaneness of the story. The more unnatural anything is, the more is it capable of becoming the object of dismal admiration.

SOURCE: Thomas Paine. *Age of Reason*. Vol. A pg. 1006

QUOTE: Of all the systems of religion that ever were invented, there is no more derogatory to the Almighty, more unedifying to man, more repugnant to reason, and more contradictory to itself than this thing called Christianity. Too absurd for belief, too impossible to convince, and too inconsistent for practice, it renders the heart torpid or produces only atheists or fanatics. As an engine of power, it serves the purpose of despotism, and as a means of wealth, the avarice of priests, but so far as respects the good of man in general it leads to nothing here or hereafter.

SOURCE: Thomas Paine. *The Age of Reason*. Vol A. Pg. 1007

QUOTE: “Twas mercy brought me from my pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand.”

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

QUOTE: Nature, whereas men warpt by Education, judge amiss from previous prejudice and referring all things to the model of the ancients, condemn that by comparison where no true Similitud ought to be expected.

SOURCE: Abigail Adams. *Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, June 30, 1778*. Vol. A Pg.

QUOTE: I long to 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 favorable to them than your ancestors.

SOURCE: Abigail Adams, “Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776” (Vol A P1011)

QUOTE: Men must be ready, they must pride themselves, and be happy to sacrifice their private Pleasures, Passions and Interests, nay, their private Friendships and dearest Connections, when they stand in Competition with the Rights of Society.

SOURCE: John Adams. *from Letter from John Adams to Mercy Otis Warren, April 16, 1776*. Vol A Pg.1013

QUOTE: We have only the Name of Masters, and rather than give up this, which would compleatly subject us to the Despotism of the Peticoat, I hope General Washington, and all of our braves heroes would fight.

SOURCE: John Adams, “Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, April 14, 1776” p. 1012

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 any thing else.

SOURCE: *from Letters on the Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman. Letter VIII The Condition of Women in the United States*. Vol. B Pg. 2238

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 Grimké 1792-1873. *from Letters on The Equality of the Sexes, and the Condition of Woman*. Vol B Pg.2239

QUOTE: “Hitherto, instead of being a help meet to man, in the highest, noblest sense of the term, as a companion, a co-worker, an equal; she has been a mere appendage of his being, an instrument of his convenience and pleasure.” (2246)

SOURCE: Angelina Grimke “Letter XII Human Rights Not Founded on Sex”

QUOTE: Now, I believe it is woman’s right to have a voice in all the laws and regulations by which she is to be governed, whether in Church or State;

SOURCE: Angelina Grimké. *Human Rights Not Founded on Sex*. Vol B Pg.2247

QUOTE: When I see such a narrow, snarling criticism as the above, I always say to myself the writer is some unhappy man, who has come up without the refining influence of mother, or sister, or reputable female friends; who has divided his migratory life between boarding-houses, restaurants, and the outskirts of editorial sanctums; and who knows as much about reviewing a woman’s book, as I do about navigating a ship, or engineering an omnibus from the South Ferry, through Broadway, to Union Park.

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, “Male Criticism on Ladies Books” (P2261).

QUOTE: Can I *even* be President? Bah – you know I can’t. “*Free!*” Humph!

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, “Independence” p. 2264

QUOTE: Now the truth is just this, and I wish all the women o earth had but one ear in common, so that I could put this little but of gospel into it:—Just so long as a man isn’t quite 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 possession of every inch of your heart, and no neutral territory—he will turn on is heel and march off whistling “Yankee Doodle!”

SOURCE: Fanny Fern, “Hints to Young Wives” (Vol B P2257-2258)

QUOTE: We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...”

SOURCE: Stanton, *Declaration of Sentiments*, p.2270

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: I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their ages as horses of theirs

SOURCE: Narrative of the life of Fredrick Douglass, An American Slave P2045 Fredrick Douglass

QUOTE: I know nothing; this means of knowing was withheld from me

SOURCE: Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, An American Slave P2046 Fredrick Douglass

QUOTE: No words, no tears, no prayers, from his gory victim, seemed to move his iron heart from its bloody purpose. The louder she screamed, the harder he whipped: and where the blood ran fastest, there he whipped longest.”

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. Vol B. Pg. 2047

QUOTE: If any one wishes to be impressed with the soul-killing effects of slavery, let him go to Colonel Lloyd’s plantation, and, on allowance day, place himself in the deep pine woods, and there let him, in silence analyze the sounds that shall pass through the chambers of his soul,--and if he is not thus impressed, it will only be because “there is no flesh in his obdurate heart”.

SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (pg. 2051)

QUOTE:if you give a nigger an inch, he will take an ell. A nigger should know nothing but to obey his master

SOURCE:Narrative of the life of Fredrick Douglass, An American slave P2059 Fredrick Douglass

QUOTE: I used to carry bread with me, enough of which was always in the house, and to which I was always welcome; for I was much better off in this regard than many of the poor white children in our neighborhood.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. Vol B. Pg. 2062

QUOTE: I assert most unhesitatingly, that the religion of the south is a mere covering for the most horrid crimes,- a justifier of the most appalling barbarity,-a sanctifier of the most hateful frauds,- and a dark shelter under, which the darkest, foulest, grossest, and most infernal deeds of slaveholders find the strongest protection.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, and American Slave” (P2079).

QUOTE: We have men sold to build churches, women sold to support the gospel, and babes sold to purchase Bibles for the *poor heathen! all for the glory of God and the good of souls!*

QUOTE: The paper came, and I read it from week to week with such feelings as it would be quite idle for me to attempt to describe. The paper became my meat and my drink.

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Vol B Pg.2096

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*. Vol B. Pg. 2098

QUOTE: “even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

SOURCE: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of an American Slave*.

QUOTE: I’m the very infant that refused his milk before its eyes were open, and called out for a bottle of old Rye!

SOURCE: Mike Fink, “The Crockett Almanacs” (P2283).

QUOTE: For as all mankind have an equal right to any thing, which has never before been appropriated, so any nation, that discovers an uninhabited country, and takes possession thereof, is considered as enjoying full property, and absolute, unquestionable empire therein.

SOURCE: Washington Irving, “A History of New York” (P2301).

QUOTE: The Indians improved daily and wonderfully by their intercourse with the whites. They took to drinking rum, and making bargains. They learned to cheat, to lie, to swear, to gamble, to quarrel, to cut each other’s throats, in short, to excel in all the accomplishments that had originally marked the superiority of their Christian visitors.

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

QUOTE: They will turn upon us and say—miserable barbarians! ungrateful wenches!—have we not come thousands of miles to improve your worthless planet—have we not fed you with moonshine

SOURCE: Washing Irving, “A History of New York” (Vol B P2309)

QUOTE: Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing
 Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before;
 But the silence was unbroken

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe “The Raven”

QUOTE: “But we loved with a love that was more than love/

... With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven—Coveted her and me” (738)

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe “Annabel Lee”

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 Allan Poe, “Annabel Lee” (pg. 2571)

QUOTE: And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling – my darling – my life and my bride

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

QUOTE: True!—nervous—very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why *will* you say that I am mad? The disease has sharpened my sense—not destroyed—not dulled them.

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart” (Vol B P2517)

QUOTE: In the manner of my friend I was at once struck with an incoherence- an inconsistency; and I soon found this to arise from a series of feeble and futile struggles to overcome an habitual trepidancy--an excessive nervous agitation.

SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe. “The Fall of the House of Usher.” Vol. B. Pg. 2500

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 1708

QUOTE: But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature* (Vol B P1708)

QUOTE: All science has one aim, namely, to find a theory of nature. We have theories of races and of functions, but scarcely yet a remote approach to an idea of creation. We are now so far from the road to truth, that religious teachers dispute and hate each other, and speculative men are esteemed unsound and frivolous.

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

Quote: “I have become a transparent eye-ball.”

Source: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," Volume B page 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...which nature cannot repair." (1709)

SOURCE: Emerson "Nature"

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

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" (P1709).

QUOTE: Nature always wears the colors of the spirit.

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, p.1710

QUOTE: Nothing divine dies. All good is eternally reproductive, The beauty of nature reforms itself in the mind, and not for barren contemplation, but for new creation.

SOURCE: Ralf Waldo Emerson. *Nature*. Vol B Pg.1714

QUOTE: For nonconformity the world whips you with its displeasure

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson Self-Reliance P1750

QUOTE: "Insist on yourself; never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life cultivation: but of the adopted talent of another, you have only an extemporaneous, half passion." (1760)

SOURCE: Emerson "Self Reliance"

QUOTE: "The man must be so much that he must make all circumstances indifferent."

SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Selfreliance*.

QUOTE: The government itself, which is only the mode which the people have chosen to execute their will, is equally liable to be abused and perverted before the people can act through it.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (Vol B P1862)

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, a mere shadow and reminiscence of humanity, a man laid out alive and standing, and already, as one may say, buried under arms with funeral accompaniments, though it may be

"Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,
As his corse to the rampart we hurried;
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot

O'er the grave where our hero we buried."

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. *Resistance to Civil Government*. Vol. B Pg. 1863-64

QUOTE: But a government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice, even as far as men understand it

SOURCE: Resistance to Civil government Henry David Thoreau P1863

QUOTE: I ask for, not at once no government, but at once a better government

SOURCE: Resistance to civil government Henry David Thoreau P 1863

QUOTE: The only obligation which I have a right to assume, is to do at any time what I think right. It is truly enough said, that a corporation has no conscience; but a corporation of conscientious men is a corporation *with* a conscience.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau. *Resistance to Civil Government*. Vol. B Pg.1863

QUOTE: all machines have their friction; and possibly this does enough good to counterbalance the evil. At any rate, it is a great evil to make a stir about it. But when friction comes to the have its machine, and oppression and robbery are organized, I say, let us not have such a machine any longer

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (pg. 1864)

QUOTE: A minority is powerless while it conforms to the majority; it is not even a minority then; but it is irresistible when it clogs by its whole weight.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (P1869).

QUOTE: Is a democracy, such as we know it, the last improvement possible in government? Is it not possible to take a step further towards recognizing and organizing the rights of man? There will never be a really free and enlightened state, until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly.

SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (pg. 1876)

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