

ENG 246: African American Literature
Spring 2018 Final Exam Quotation Guide
Dr. Harold William Halbert

QUOTE: The great responsibility of being free, of having charge of themselves, of having to think and plan for themselves and their children, seemed to take a possession of them. It was very much like suddenly turning a youth of ten or twelve years out into the world to provide for himself.

SOURCE: Booker T. Washington. *Up From Slavery*. P557

QUOTE: The first is African music the second Afro-American, while the third is a blending of Negro music with the music heard in the foster land.

SOURCE: W.E.B. Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, pg 755

QUOTE:

O Freedom, O Freedom, O Freedom over me!
Before I'll be a slave,
I'll be buried in my grave,
And go home to my Lord
And be free.

SOURCE: page 730, *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B Dubois

QUOTE: "John," she said, "does it make everyone-unhappy when they study and learn lots if things?" He paused and smiled. "I am afraid it does," he said. "And, John, are you glad you studied? "Yes," came the answer slowly but positively.

SOURCE: *The Souls of Black Folks* by W.E.B. Dubois page 749

QUOTE: "Go on and up! Our Souls and eyes / Shall follow thy continuous rise; / Our ears shall list thy story / From bards who from thy root shall spring, / And proudly tune their lyres to sing / Of Ethiopia's glory" (Dunbar 897).

SOURCE: Paul Lance Dunbar, "Ode to Ethiopia," 897

QUOTE: "First, that the Negro has been throughout the centuries of controversy an active collaborator, and often a pioneer, in the struggle for his own freedom and advancement. This is true to a degree which makes it the more surprising that it has not been recognized earlier" (Schomburg 945).

SOURCE: Arthur A. Schomburg, "The Negro Digs Up His Past," 945

QUOTE: She looked up at him haughtily with cool green eyes, somewhat astonished at his insolence and yet perhaps secretly intrigued but her reply lacked nothing in definiteness. "No," she said icily, "I never dance with niggers!"

SOURCE: George Samuel Schuyler, *Black No More*, pg 1225

QUOTE: My sociology teacher had once said that there were but three ways for the Negro to solve his problem in America, he gestured with his long slender fingers, 'To either get out, get white or get along.'

SOURCE: *Black No More* by George Samuel Schuyler page 1227

QUOTE: He stroked his pale blond hair and secretly congratulated himself that he would no longer need to straighten it nor be afraid to wet it. He gazed raptly at his smooth white hands with the blue veins showing through.

SOURCE: George Samuel Schuyler. *Black No More*. P1236

QUOTE: "All Negroes; yet their work show the impress of nationality rather than race. They all reveal the psychology and culture of their environment—their color is incidental" (Schuyler 1220).

SOURCE: George Samuel Schuyler, "The Negro-Art Hokum," 1220

QUOTE: "Why can they then perceive that there is a difference in the glance from a pair of eyes that look, mildly docile, at 'white ladies' and those that, impersonally and perceptively—aware of distinctions—see only women who happen to be white" (Bonner 1267).

SOURCE: Marita Bonner, "On Being Young—A Woman—And Colored," 1267

QUOTE: Men of other races and nations have become alarmed at this attitude of the Negro in his desire to do things for himself and by himself. This alarm has become so universal that organizations have been brought into being here, there and everywhere for the purpose of deterring and obstructing this forward move of our race.

SOURCE: Marcus Garvey, "The Negro Is Ready," pg 989

QUOTE: "I trust that the Negro peoples of the world are now convinced that the work of the Universal Negro Improvement Association is not so far fetched, but can be realized in a short while if the entire race will only co-operate and work toward the desired end"

SOURCE: "Africa for the Africans: A 'Program' at Last" by Marcus Garvey page 987

QUOTE: The new Negro shall not be deceived. The new Negro refuses to take advice from anyone who has not felt with him, and suffered with him. We have suffered for three hundred years, therefore we feel that the time has come when only those who have suffered with us can interpret our feelings and our spirit.

SOURCE: Marcus Garvey. "Crocodiles" as Friends. P990

QUOTE: I think it must be very lonely to be God. / Nobody loves a master.

SOURCE: Gwendolyn Brooks, "The Preacher: Ruminates Behind The Sermon," page 328 (packet)

QUOTE:

The fun was disturbed, then all but nullified
When the Dark Villain was a blackish child
Of fourteen, with eyes still too young to be dirty,
And a mouth too young to have lost every reminder
Of its infant softness.

SOURCE: Gwendolyn Brooks. A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi. Meanwhile, a Mississippi Mother Burns Bacon. P340

QUOTE: Walter: That is what is wrong with the colored woman in this world... Don't understand about building their men up and making 'em feel like they somebody. Like they can do something.

SOURCE: Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*, page 1548

QUOTE: "Who the hell told you you had to be a doctor? If you so crazy 'bout messing round with sick people- then go be a nurse like the other women- or just get married and be quiet"

SOURCE: *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry page 1549

QUOTE: "I don't flirt, I experiment with different forms of expression."

SOURCE: Lorraine Hansberry, pg. 1554, "A Raisin in the Sun"

QUOTE: "Mama: Oh—So now it's life. Money is life. Once upon a time freedom used to be life—now it's money. I guess the world really do change . . ."

SOURCE: Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*, P1567

QUOTE: It's just a plain little old house—but it's made good and solid—and it will be *ours*.

SOURCE: Lorraine Hansberry. *A Raisin in the Sun*. P1577

QUOTE: George: You're a nice looking girl... all over. That's all you need, honey, forget the atmosphere. Guys aren't going to go for the atmosphere--they're going to go for what they see. Be glad for that. Drop the Garbo routine. IT doesn't go with you. As for myself, I want a nice--simple--sophisticated girl.

SOURCE: Lorraine Hansberry, *Raisin in the Sun*, page 1579

QUOTE: "Asagai: That when it is all over – that you come home with me –"

SOURCE: Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*, P1599

QUOTE: While I was downstairs before, on my way here, listening to that woman sing, it struck me all of a sudden how much suffering she must have had to go through—to sing like that. It's *repulsive* to think you have to suffer that much.

SOURCE: James Baldwin. "Sonny's Blues," P41.

QUOTE: I had never before thought of how awful the relationship must be between the musician and his instrument. He has to fill it, this instrument, with the breath of life, his own.

SOURCE: James Baldwin "Sonny's Blues", page 46

QUOTE: "For, while the tale of how we suffer, and how we are delighted, and how we may triumph is never new, it always must be heard. There isn't any other tale to tell, it's the only light we've got in all this darkness" (Baldwin 47).

SOURCE: James Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues," 47

QUOTE: I now knew what being a Negro meant. I could endure the hunger. I had learned to live with hate. But to feel that there were feelings denied me, that the very breath of life was beyond my reach, that more than anything else hurt, wounded me, I had a new hunger.

SOURCE: Richard Wright. *Black Boy*. P145.

QUOTE: They told me that I must never attempt to exceed my boundaries. When you are working for white folks, they said, you got to "stay in your place" if you want to keep working.

SOURCE: Richard Wright. "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow." P136

QUOTE: I learned to play that dual role which every Negro must play if he wants to eat and live.

SOURCE: Richard Wright, "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow, " page 139

QUOTE: In this fashion I evaded having to acknowledge his service, and, in spite of adverse circumstances, salvaged a slender shred of personal pride.

SOURCE: Wright, Richard. "The Ethic of Living Jim Crow, an Autobiographical Sketch." P140

QUOTE: “This special existence was forced upon them negative conditions with the inevitability of a tree which must live or perish in whatever soil it finds itself” (Wright 128).

SOURCE: Richard Wright, “Blueprint for Negro Writing,” 129

QUOTE: I do not belong to the sobbing school of Negrohood who hold that nature somehow has given them a lowdown dirty deal... Even in the helter-skelter skirmish that is my life, I have seen that the world is to the strong regardless of pigmentation more or less.

SOURCE: Zora Neale Hurston, “How It Feels to Be Colored Me”, page 1041

QUOTE: I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background.

SOURCE: Hurston, Zora Neale. “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” P1041

QUOTE: Ships in a distance every man’s wish on board. For some they come in with the tide. For others they sail forever on the horizon, never out of sight, never landing until the Watcher turns his eyes away in resignation, his dreams mocked to death by Time. That is the life of men.

SOURCE: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, pg 1071

QUOTE:

The sink is broke,
The water don’t run,
And you ain’t done a thing
You promised to’ve done

SOURCE: Langston Hughes, “Madam and the Rent Man”, P1316

QUOTE: *Or does it explode?*

SOURCE: Hughes, Langston. “Harlem” P1319

QUOTE: “I want to be a poet--not a Negro poet,” meaning, I believe, “I want to write like a white poet”; meaning subconsciously, “I would like to be a white poet”; meaning behind that, “I would like to be white.”

SOURCE: Langston Hughes, *The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain*, page 1321

QUOTE: Christ is a nigger,/ Beaten and black: / Oh, bare your back!

SOURCE: Langston Hughes, pg. 1313, “Christ in Alabama”

QUOTE: “Nor do I often want to be a part of you”

SOURCE: Langston Hughes, “Theme for English B”. P1319

QUOTE: "Folks who ain't suffered much cannot play Bop, neither appreciate it. They think Bop is nonsense—like you. They think its just *crazy* crazy. They do not know bop is also MAD crazy, SAD crazy, FRANTIC WILD CRAZY—beat out of somebody's head! That's what Bop is. Them young colored kids who started it, they know what Bop is.

"Your explanation depresses me" I said.

"Your nonsense depresses me," said Simple

SOURCE: "Bop" by Langston Hughes page 1339

QUOTE: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

SOURCE: Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail", P1

QUOTE: Frankly, I have never yet engaged in a direct-action movement that was "well timed" according to the timetable of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "wait." It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant "never."

SOURCE: Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail" P2

QUOTE: So the question is not whether we will be an extremist, but what kind of extremist we will be. Will we be extremists for hate, or will we be extremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?

SOURCE: Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail". P4

QUOTE: One is a force of complacency made up of Negroes who, as a result of long years of oppression, have been so completely drained of self-respect and a sense of "somebodyness" that they have adjusted to segregation, and, on the other hand, of a few Negroes in the middle class who, because of a degree of academic and economic security and because at points they profit by segregation, have unconsciously become insensitive to the problems of the masses.

SOURCE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail. P4

QUOTE: Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups are more immoral than individuals.

SOURCE: Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter to Birmingham Jail," pg 5

QUOTE: "Many who today hear me somewhere in person, or on television, or those who read something I've said, will think I went to school far beyond the eighth grade. This impression is due entirely to my prison studies."

SOURCE: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X and Alex Haley

QUOTE: “symbolized white society’s crime of keeping black men oppressed and deprived and ignorant, and unable to get decent jobs, turning them into criminals”

SOURCE: Malcom X, *The Autobiography of Malcom X*, P565

QUOTE: “waves of shame and embarrassment would force me back up”

SOURCE: Malcom X, *The Autobiography of Malcom X*, P573

QUOTE: “And what is the greatest single reason for this Christian church's failure? It is its failure to combat racism.”

SOURCE: Malcom X, pg. 582, “Malcom X”

QUOTE: The discussion with the ambassador gave me a new insight, one which I like: that the white man is *not* inherently evil, but America’s racist society influences him to act evilly. The society has produced and nourishes a psychology which brings out the lowest, most base part of human beings.

SOURCE: Malcolm X *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. P583.

QUOTE: Where the really sincere white people have got to do their “proving” of themselves is not among the black *victims*, but out on the battle lines of where America’s racism really *is*—and that’s in their own home communities; America’s racism is among their own fellow whites. That’s where the sincere whites who really mean to accomplish something have got to work.

SOURCE: Malcom X. “The Autobiography of Malcom X” P584

QUOTE: The document they produced was eventually signed but ultimately unfinished. It was stained by this nation’s original sin of slavery, a question that divided the colonies and brought the convention to a stalemate until the founders chose to allow the slave trade to continue for at least 20 more years, and to leave any final resolution to future generations.

SOURCE: Barack Obama. Sen. Barack Obama Addresses Race at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. P1

QUOTE: “... But it is a story that has seared into my genetic makeup the idea that this nation is more than the sum of its parts – that out of many, we are truly one.”

SOURCE: Barack Obama, “A More Perfect Union”

QUOTE: Now, in the white community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination — and current incidents of

discrimination, while less overt than in the past — that these things are real and must be addressed.

SOURCE: Obama, Barack. “A More Perfect Union” P7