

## 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"