

Puritan Literature Study Guide

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences to review for your Puritan literature quiz. PLEASE USE YOUR OWN PAPER.

Of Plymouth Plantation, William Bradford

1. What hardships did the Pilgrims face aboard the *Mayflower*? What hardships did they face in Plymouth?
2. What caused the Pilgrims to land on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, instead of farther south, near the Hudson River?
3. What enabled the Pilgrims to survive “the Starving Time”?
4. What do Bradford’s comments reveal about the Pilgrims’ character?
5. What are some examples of Samoset’s and Squanto’s accomplishments?
6. What do you think might have happened to the Pilgrims without Squanto’s help?
7. What were the six terms of peace meant to accomplish? Was their plan a good one? Why or why not?
8. Paraphrase the first sentence on page 63, paragraph 1, which begins “Being thus arrived...”
9. Identify one allusion from this work. Explain its meaning.

“Upon the Burning of Our House” and “To My Dear and Loving Husband,” Anne Bradstreet

1. How did the speaker in “Upon the Burning of Our House” feel about her possessions before the fire? How does she feel afterward?
2. What do you think brought about the change in her perspective?
3. In the final line, where does the speaker say her “hope and treasure” are?
4. Identify one metaphor in this poem. Explain the metaphor.
5. In “To My Dear and Loving Husband,” what does the speaker prize “more than whole mines of gold”? Why do you think she compares the way she feels to mines of gold?
6. What is the seeming contradiction in the last line of the poem? What do you think this line means?

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” Jonathan Edwards

1. In the first paragraph, what generalization does Edwards make about all people? Why do you think he makes this statement?
2. To what does Edwards compare the unrepentant sinner in paragraph seven? What is the effect of this comparison?
3. Near the end of the sermon, what does Edwards say Christ has done?
4. How would you describe Edwards’ view of the relationship between God and humanity?
5. What allusion does Edwards introduce in the last paragraph? Why does he make this reference?
6. **Imagery.** What frightening images occur in the first two paragraphs? To which senses do they appeal?
7. Identify five additional images that Edwards uses in the sermon to make his argument convincing.
8. What is the connotation associated with the word “flocking” on page 92, next to last paragraph?

Literary Elements: Define the following.

allusion
connotation
diction
hyperbole
imagery
metaphor
parallelism
personification
rhetorical devices
rhetorical question
simile

Identify the literary element being used in each example below.

“...lake of burning brimstone...”

“...The bow of God’s wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string...”

“Let everyone fly out of Sodom...”

“...you hang by a slender thread with flames of divine wrath
flashing about...”

“... the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood...”

“...pit of glowing flames...”

“...his wrath towards you burns like fire...”

“Your wickedness makes you as heavy as lead...”

“...hell’s wide gaping mouth...” (*key word- mouth*)

“...God holds you over a pit of hell, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect over the fire...”

Vocabulary: Define the following.

Writhe	Procure
Isolate	Commodity
Infirm	Feigned
Preeminently	Appease
Pillage	Abate
Luxuriant	Abhor
Resolve	Abominable
Providence	