**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Final Exam – Interpretation of Literature**

**PART 1: Close Reading (30 pts)**

Read the attached excerpt, annotating as necessary. Then answer the following questions:

1. Choose a character from this scene and discuss his **tone**. **Identify at least two different tones he uses throughout the scene. Then provide text evidence for each one**. **Finally, provide an explanation of your answer** that explores what these tones are showing about the character in this part of the play. The explanation is where you will also note if there is a change in tone and why that is significant.

Character & Tones:

Example 1:

Example 2:

Explanation:

1. Discuss **at least two different ways** that the concept of **power** is used in this scene. Provide examples to prove what you are claiming.
2. How is the **setting** important in this scene? Use details from the text to support your answer.
3. How is Arthur Miller using this scene to **critique consumerism**? What details would support this reading of the scene? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. Identify what is, in your opinion, **the most significant line** from this scene. **Copy the quote and then explain why it is significant.** Make an argument about how this line is significant for this scene **and** for the play as a whole. Closely read/analyze the line you’ve chosen. Consider what the author is doing in the line … you might consider the diction choice, if the author is using a certain technique or element, what it means for that character, how it fits into the rest of the play, etc.

**PART 2: Passage identification (20 pts) – 4 pts each**

Choose **5** of the following passages to identify. For each provide the following.

1. The text it comes from
2. Who is speaking and who they are referring to.
3. What it means/why is it significant

**A.** “I wish you’d seen [her] when she wore a white dress with blue ribbons and stood up there in the choir and sang. Oh I wish I’d come over here once in a while! That was a crime! That was a crime! Who’s going to punish that?”

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**B.** The gray-green surface changes to the bright colors of our three images, sharpening and deepening all at once. And although we don’t speak, I know we all see it: Together we look like our mother. Her same eyes, her same mouth, open in surprise to see us, at last, her long-cherished wish.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**C.** And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare / As any she belied with false compare

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**D.** She closes her eyes, bows her head / and like a child presses her hands together / her patient flesh steeple the skin / worn, like the pages of her prayer book.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**E**. [He] answered their questions in detail, and they listened intently—this group of men with nets, blowing their smoke into the wind. Stooped and toothless, they hung upon his every word while I stood in the lazy surf, thinking of the upcoming pageant and wondering if the light reflecting off the water might tan the underside of my nose and chin.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**F.** Ba-bam, ba-bam, I tapped about the yard all day. That was just like my mother to let me have a drum and then forbid me to drum it, ba-bam, ba-bam, in any significantly inspired way. And how could I judge significance in a drum unless at least one grownup clapped her hands over her ears? And how could I judge inspiration unless there was noise in it, drumming from my ten flexed toes, from my skinny legs that would someday improve themselves, drumming from the hips I swayed when I was womanish, and up, up the rib cage, where the heart sat like a crimson drum itself among ivory drumsticks, and then the drumming rose like wings, making my shoulders shrug, my arms lift, my wrists flick, and down came the drumsticks, BOOM, BOOM, Baarra-ba BOOM!

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**G.** “O, sir, content you. I follow him to serve my turn upon him …. In following him, I follow but myself. Heaven is my judge. Not I for love and duty, but seeming so, for my peculiar end; for when my outward action doth demonstrate the native act and figure of my heart in complement extern, tis not long after but I will wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at. I am not what I am.”

1.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**PART 3: MINI-ESSAY Question (50 pts)**

We have often discussed the complexity of identities in literature this semester. For this essay, you will explore the complexity of characters’ identities in at least two pieces of literature we have read this semester. **Choose two characters (each from a different text) that you feel exhibit particularly complex identities, analyze what makes each character complex, and then make a claim for which of the two character is more complex.**

**Write an essay that has the following components:**

* A brief introduction that defines what constitutes a “complex” identity in your opinion, introduces the two characters you will discuss, and presents your thesis.
* A section that analyzes the first character and what makes he/she complex
* A section that analyzes the second character and what makes he/she complex
* A final section that makes a claim for which of the two characters is MORE complex and proves why that is the case. (This will involve a bit of comparison/contrast of the two characters and your logic reasoning for what makes one more complex than the other).

Your essay should have at least three well-developed paragraphs, but may have more depending on how you choose to break up your points.

You may choose characters from any of the following:

*Me Talk Pretty One Day*

*Othello*

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*

*Trifles*

*Death of a Salesman*

“The Things They Carried”

“Everyday Use”

“A Pair of Tickets”

“Flight Patterns”

“The Interpreter of Maladies”

“My Papa’s Waltz”

“Digging”

“Pilgrimage”

“Gentle Communion”

“Sonnet 130 My Mistress Eyes”

“Upon the Breeze”

“My Lady’s Presence”

“Sonnet”

“Dim Lady”

Keep the following in mind as you plan and write:

* Consider what you learned about effective paragraphs (thesis/claim statements, working with evidence, and conclusion/impact statement) as you craft your essay.
* **Be sure to include extensive examples from the literature to back up your claims**. Although you will not be able to use specific quotes, you should still be as specific as possible in your examples. Refrain from vague references to the text.
* For examples you use, be sure to offer sufficient explanation/commentary that connects to your thesis.

**Essay General Rubric (out of 50 pts**)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 50-45 | Insightful analysis, thorough and specific evidence, exceptional organization, little to no mechanics errors. Effectively addresses two characters from different texts. |
| 45-40 | Good analysis, solid and specific evidence, good organization, few mechanical errors. Effectively addresses two characters from different texts. |
| 40-35 | Fairly solid analysis, some evidence, fairly organized, some mechanical errors. Addresses two characters from different texts. |
| 35-30 | Attempt at analysis, little evidence, attempt at organization, mechanical errors interfere with meaning. Attempts to address two characters from different texts. |
| 0-30 | Little to no attempt at analysis, evidence, or organization. Frequent mechanical errors make it difficult to read. May fail to answer prompt or may fail to address two characters from different texts. |