**Midterm – Interpretation of Literature Spring 2014 (SCG)**

Answer all questions in your test booklet. For multiple-choice section, write the letter of the **best** answer clearly. For all other questions, be as specific as possible in your responses. *\*Note: Because one of the test questions addresses this, I have intentionally not formatted any titles in questions.*

**Multiple Choice – 30 pts (3 pts each)**

1. Which of the following is correct parenthetical citation according to MLA guidelines?
2. “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. (Miller 27)
3. “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Miller 27).
4. “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. (Miller, p.27)
5. “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Miller, 27).
6. When writing an essay, the title of a short story should be in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. quotation marks
8. italics
9. parenthesis
10. plain text (no special font or punctuation)
11. In graduate school, Zora Neale Hurston studied \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which is seen in her fiction’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. philosophy; concern with existential questions
13. anthropology; vivid depictions of Southern rural black cultures
14. English literature; poetic devices and frequent allusions to Shakespeare
15. business; characters who are business savvy
16. Which of the following represents the **best way** to work with a quote in your writing?
17. The Rooster and his father share a special bond. “The two of them are unapologetically blunt.”
18. The Rooster and his father share a special bond, since both are “unapologetically blunt.”
19. “The two of them are unapologetically blunt. ” This proves that The Rooster and his father share a special bond.
20. The Rooster and his father share a special bond. The author shows this with the quote, “the two of them are unapologetically blunt.”
21. All of the following are features of the classic tragic hero **except**:
22. character is basically good, apart from their flaw
23. they may possess an excess of an otherwise admirable quality
24. audience feels unambiguous emotion toward the hero in the end (total anger, or total sadness)
25. often recognizes his/her flaw but too late
26. A common tragic flaw in classic literature is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
27. Promiscuity
28. Insecurity
29. Anger
30. Hubris
31. Which of the following is the biggest difference between Death of a Salesman and a classic tragedy
32. classic tragedies focus on a someone of a high station (nobleman or king), while this play is about a common man
33. classic tragedies are poems or novels, while this is a play
34. classic tragedies focus on how tragedy effects just one individual, while this play shows the effects on multiple people
35. in classic tragedies, the tragic hero lives in the end, while in this play he dies
36. Which of the following is an example of the **most** effective thesis?
37. David is ultimately dishonest in the book.
38. While David sometimes displays dishonesty toward other characters, his confessional and self-deprecating humor ultimately portray him as a genuinely honest person.
39. David is both honest and dishonest; he is honest when he admits he does not practice for speech therapy, but he is dishonest when he lies to his father about their sister’s fat suit.
40. Dishonesty vs. honesty is an important conflict in the book and David shows this conflict.
41. What are the four features identified in the “Interpreting Literature” handout that we should explore to make sense of the text itself and the semblance (layers of meaning) that emerges from the text?
42. who, what, where, when
43. author, character, reader, society
44. rhyme, alliteration, diction, syntax
45. conflict, change, repetition, narrative credibility
46. What is a foil in literature?
47. A character with the opposite traits of another character, often meant to highlight traits in the latter
48. a twist in the plot of a story, designed to interfere with one character’s trajectory
49. a technique in which the author holds a “mirror” to his or her own experience with the world
50. the climactic moment when the primary conflict of a story is brought to a head

**Short Answer/Free Response (34 pts total)**

1. **In a few sentences:** Describe the tone of The Lottery and how that tone functions in the story (i.e. what is the purpose of that tone?) When you describe the tone, be as specific as possible and use an example from the story to show what you are saying. (4 pts)
2. **In a few sentences:** How does Martha function in the story The Things They Carried? (4 pts)
3. **In a few sentences:** How would you describe the attitude toward reading in Superman and Me? Give an example to show what you are saying. (4 pts)
4. **In a few sentences**: Identify two characters that are foils in Death of a Salesman. Explain how they are foils and the significance to the overall play. (6 pts)
5. **In a paragraph:** Choose a text we have read that uses symbolism. Identify an important symbol in the text, and how that symbol functions (when/how it appears in the text and what it represents). (8 pts)
6. **In a paragraph**: Choose **two poems** we read about parental figures and compare/contrast how each presents the parent. Use examples to show what you are saying. (8 pts)

**Passage Identification – 36 pts (6 pts each)**

1. Identify **title and author** (2 pts)
2. **Explain what the passage is about.** Be sure **to include who is involved** (who is speaking, who is being spoken to, and/or who is the subject of the quote). Then, **analyze the passage explaining its significance to the text as a whole**. (4 pts)
3. “Ah come in heah tu talk widjua and Ah’m goin-tuh do it too. It’s for both of our sakes Ah’m talkin …. Ah aint goin’ outa here and Ah ain’t gointuh hush. Naw, you gointhu listen to tuh me one time...”
4. “Her heart exulted, while it trembled, at his honorable love—so pure and lofty that it would accept nothing less than perfection, nor miserably make itself contented with an earthlier nature than he had dreamed of. She felt how much more precious was such a sentiment than the meaner kind which would have borne with the imperfection for her sake, and have been guilty of treason to holy love by degrading its perfect idea to the level of the actual; and with her whole spirit, she prayed that, for a single moment, she might satisfy his highest and deepest conception.”
5. “His name was never in the paper. He’s not the finest character that ever lived. But he’s a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He’s not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person.”
6. “He tried not to think about [it], but then he was thinking how fast it was, no drama, down and dead, and how it was hard to feel anything except surprise. It seemed un-Christian. He wished he could find some great sadness, or even anger, but the emotion wasn’t there and he couldn’t make it happen. Mostly he felt pleased to be alive. He liked the smell of the New Testament under his cheek, the leather and ink and paper and glue, whatever the chemicals were.”
7. “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 / sometimes I sit in her wide-armed / chair as I once sat in her lap…”
8. “The dangerous me noticed how [he] tightened his fists when the train pulled to a stop. Carol held her pocketbook close against her chest and sucked in her breath as [we] stepped out of the car, no longer finicky little boyfriends on our overseas experiment, but rogues, accomplices, halfway to Timbuktu”

**Title and Author Bank**

Superman and Me; The Things They Carried; The Lottery; Me Talk Pretty One Day; Death of a Salesman; My Papa’s Waltz; Digging; In Memoriam; Gentle Communion; Their Eyes Were Watching God; The Birthmark

Shirley Jackson; Arthur Miller; Seamus Heaney; Sherman Alexie; Zora Neale Hurston; Pat Mora; David Sedaris; Theodore Roethke; Nathaniel Hawthorne; Tim O’Brien