

Student _____

**ENGLISH III, QUARTER 1
AMERICAN LITERATURE
A HISTORICAL NOVEL – FROM THE BEGINNING TILL 1900.**

Title _____ Author _____

A historical novel is a fictional narrative set in a real historical period of time. The historical setting and event(s) and even some characters are historically accurate. The fictional plot is interwoven within the history. Use the handout, “Literary Terms,” for help.

Read a historical novel, approved by a teacher, set in the North American continent from the beginning until 1900. For example: The Sea Runner by Ivan Doig is about four men escaping the czar’s captivity in Alaska in 1853 and traveling down the Pacific Coast to Astoria; Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose deals with the Lewis and Clark Expedition; The Way West by A. B. Guthrie follows a wagon train westward; Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell set in the South during the Civil War, and Indigo by Beverly Jenkins deals with the Underground Railway. The Internet is full of titles, and the library is full of novels. *Answer each of the following in formatted essays of at least five paragraphs. Be clear and complete in what you say. Keep in mind that the reader does not know what you read, so some summarization of the novel is needed.*

1. Explain how the plot of the novel depends upon the historical aspects of the novel. Use at least three parts of the plot: characterization, conflict(s), theme, setting . . .

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2. The plot and setting of a novel usually promotes a number of moods. Select at least three moods within your chosen novel and explain how each mood is produced.

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3. Select one of the characters in the novel and explain how he/she fits into the time period of the novel. Costume, speech, attitude, job, behaviors, thoughts . . . might be considered.

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4. Select one of the characters and explain how he/she changes as a person (inside – like values, moral, attitude . . .) from the beginning to the end of the novel. Use examples!

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5. Explain what the theme of the novel is, how the plot develops the theme, and how that same theme may exist in the real world. Don’t forget to give examples for clarity.

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**ENGLISH III, QUARTER 1
POETRY/LYRICS BEFORE 1900**

Select five poems and/or lyrics written before 1900. In correctly formatted essays of at least five paragraphs, answer the following questions. Keep in mind that the reader has no clue about the poems. Make sure that the “title” and the poet are mentioned in each essay. Each poem has a separate question about it, so you have some choices to make.

- 1. Poem One: What is the theme? Explain how the poem develops the theme and how the theme may be seen in the real world. Use examples for clarity.**

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- 2. Poem Two: Who is the speaker of the poem? Usually the speaker is not the poet. The speaker is usually someone or thing like a lover, a homesick person ... who is the speaker speaking to? Explain how you figured out who is who?**

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- 3. Poem Three: Spend a little time investigating, and write an essay explaining why the poem fits into the period before 1900. It might be the subject, the style, ... You might even look up something about the poet.**

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- 4. Poem Four: What is the setting of the poem? How does the setting fit into what the poem says? Explain how you know? Use specific examples.**

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- 5. Poem Five: Explain why the speaker of the poem or the poet says what he/she does. Be certain to use examples!**

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- 6. Select your favorite poem and explain why you like it the best. Remember that the reader has no clue about what the poem says.**

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