

Test 1

1) Phyllis Wheatley used this line length in many of her poems: _____

2) What is a stanza? _____

3) Why is analyzing vernacular important?

4) The refrain, “I ain’t got long to stay here,” in spirituals and gospel has duality what exactly does it mean, in context and out of context?

5) I introduced you to one of the preeminent “free” Jazz artists and explained that this guy influenced Jackson Pollack’s splash styled art, which continues a theme in American culture of Whites being influenced by Black artists. Who was the artist we listened to in class? _____

Give definitions or examples of the following terms.

6) Meter: _____

How many stanzas does a Shakespearean sonnet have, what type of stanzas are used and how many lines are in a sonnet?

7) _____ 8) _____

9) _____ 10) _____

11. What line length is this line of poetry: And did those feet in ancient time _____

12. Gil Scott Heron’s “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” What does this poem mean? Show examples and expound... Also tell me where Gil Scott was born? Finally tell me why he can be considered the Godfather of Rap music.

13. Define or show Alliteration: _____

14. A reference to a text, song or picture in literature is called an: _____

15. Metaphor: _____

16. Simile: _____

17. _____

18. Which Harlem Renaissance Poet was born in Jamaica? _____

Name three poets from the Harlem Renaissance.

19) _____

20) _____

21) _____

22. _____

23. _____

24. *If We Must Die* is written in this form? What is this form typically used for? And why do you think the poet chose this form? 10pts

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

25. Who wrote the Black National Anthem? _____

26. Who were the Last Poets and what were their names? _____

27. When were the Last Poets founded? _____

28. Where was their first gig? _____

29. What was the original name of the Last Poets? Where did their actual name come from?

30. "Die Nigger Die" is a poem that is immediately identified as one of the most important poems created by the TLP. Why do you think this poem is important? What is different about the use of the word Nigger in this poem in comparison to the songs and the use of the word today?

31. Gil Scott Heron's most popular poem was influenced by TLP's "When The Revolution Comes". What is the name of that poem?

32. Actor and activist Ossie Davis stated that what The Last Poets inspired in rap has been lost and is now, "Milling about in the hallways and pissy staircases of society." What did he mean by this?

33. How is that Black literature came to exist within such an oppressive system of control and manipulation?

34. Who produced the first work of African-American prose? _____

35. Why was it important that early poets write using meter? _____

36. The ‘attack’ on Phyllis Wheatley’s poetry began early. In the 18th century what woman writer refuted Wheatley’s “On Being” and essentially adds to the future movement towards negritude and black empowerment?

37. What African American writer used an allusion to the constitution to create his “Appeal”?

38. How would you discuss the inherent conflict in the foundation of America? A country that was built on the desire for freedom and justice, but was also built on a foundation of mistreatment and inequality?

39. What Spanish missionary basically began the institution of slavery in the Americas?

40. Why was it critical to slavemasters to divest Africans of their heritage? How can this be used to analyze the current lack of interest in African history by young Blacks?

41. Virginia considered two options in response to Nat Turner. They understood that slavery was, in the words of Gil Scott Heron, “Not some happy.. party.” What were the two options and they did what in response to Nat Turner’s insurrection?

42. Who was the earliest known female slave to author her own narrative? _____

43. Why is Phyllis Wheatley the most important African American Writer of the Literature of Slavery era?

44. When analyzing “On Being Brought from Africa to America” what line length is the poem using? Why is the poem written using this meter? What is the poem about?

45. In George Moses Horton’s “Myself” he uses two different line lengths. Why and what is the poem possibly addressing?

46. Consider the fact that we are now moving from abolitionists and slave narratives to writing that professes equality. Consider Francis Harper’s speech about equality and its continued refrain of America “cursing its own soul” be trampling on the weakest and feeblest of its members. What does this mean?

47. What year was the advent of the KKK and how did this and other events shape the writing?

48. Who was the first poet to be published by a major publishing house in 1925? _____

49. Who wrote the first work of fiction to be published by a New York publisher? _____

50. Harlem and New York became the headquarters of cultural and political organizations name two?

51. What graduate of Cornell took over the editor's job of the *Crisis* and discovered and nurtured several young writers of the Renaissance?

52. What is the name of the White playwright who is considered the lead in to the new movement by Black writers? Why is he important?

53. As I mentioned earlier, blacks began writing in a more direct manner about their frustrations. What Jamaican born poet introduced a more defiant tone in his poetry?

54. During the Reconstruction dialect poems dominated the literature of Blacks. Who condemned this type of poetry? What did he think should be done to remove the stigma associated with dialect poetry?

55. What was the name of the theater established by DuBois and what were the principles of this theater?

56. Why did the Harlem Renaissance decline?

Analyze "If We Must Die" by Claude McKay and answer these questions:

57. Show a simile and the two things being compared:

58. What is the rhyme scheme? _____

59. What is the line length? _____

60. What type of poem is this? _____

61. Why is this poem important?

62. Is this a Shakespearean form or Petrarchan? _____