

AP English 12 Finals Study Guide

1. Plato's Allegory of the Cave
 - a. Written by Plato but stars Socrates
 - b. What is the allegory?
 - c. What is the gift and tragedy of philosophers according to Plato?
2. Language of Tragedy
 - a. Different than catastrophe!
 - b. Origins in worship of Dionysus
 - i. Dionysus is the god of wine, harvest, fertility & theatre
 - ii. Dionysian fertility festivals
 - iii. Dithyramb
 - iv. Tragodia
 - v. Chorus
 - c. Requirements
 - i. Tragic hero
 1. High born
 2. Identity of the state tied to the hero's fortune
 - ii. Hamartia (often hubris)
 - iii. Peripety
 - iv. Recognition
 - v. Catharsis
3. Oedipus (Sophocles)
 - a. The legend of Tiresius (how he gets the gift of foresight)
 - b. Setting: Thebes
 - c. Oracle at Delphi (sibyl) and Oedipus' prophecy
 - i. "Know thyself"
 - ii. "Nothing in excess"
 - iii. "Make a pledge and mischief is nigh"
 - d. The sphinx
 - e. Major characters
 - f. motifs
4. Medea (Euripedes)
 - a. Setting: Corinth
 - b. Orientalism
 - c. Major characters
 - d. motifs
5. Hamlet (Shakespeare)
 - a. Major characters
 - b. Motifs
6. Poetry – review the packets! Know the major authors and their works
 - a. Sonnets
 - i. Evolution of the form (Italian, Early English, Shakespearean)
 - ii. Rhyme schemes
 - iii. Line count
 - iv. Octave, sestet, volta
 - v. Scansion (iambic, trochaic, pentameter, trimeter, etc.)
 - b. Metaphysicals (17th Century)
 - i. Conceit
 - c. Romantics (18th & 19th Centuries)
 - i. Origins of the movement
 - ii. Nocturn
 - iii. Pastoral
 - iv. Sublime
7. Literary Devices
8. Vocab

AP Final: Thursday, January 28th

Sample Questions:

1. Socrates once said: "The unexamined life is not worth living." How do Plato and Sophocles complicate this idea in *The Allegory of the Cave* and *Oedipus*?
2. How did the performance of tragedy develop from the ecstatic worship of Dionysus?
3. Why does Oedipus blind himself at the end of the play? How does this work with the motif of blindness that occurs throughout the text?
4. What is Oedipus' hamartia? What is his moment of realization?
5. How does Jason fulfill the five requirements of a tragic hero?
6. What is Orientalism and how does Euripedes make use of it in *Medea*?
7. The motif of ears/ hearing occurs throughout *Hamlet*. Why? What does this motif suggest about the tragic relationships among characters in the play?
8. What major elements define the Romantic movement?
9. What is the "Romantic Genius" and how did that idea influence the work of artists during that time period?

Be able to...

- Match titles to authors
 - Plato – Allegory of the Cave
 - Sophocles – Oedipus
 - Euripedes – Medea
 - Donne – A Valediction Forbidding Mourning; The Flea; Death be not Proud
 - Herbert – Paradise
 - Spenser – My love is like to ice, and I to fire
 - Shakespeare – Sonnet 130; Hamlet
 - Vaughan – The World
 - Bradstreet – Upon a Fit of Sickness
 - Shelley – Ozymandias
 - Dickenson – There is no frigate like a book
 - Millay – Sonnet 19
 - McKay – The Lynching
 - Johnson – Sonnet
 - Larkin – A Study of Reading Habits
 - Heaney – When all the Others were at Mass
- Place literary movements and major works in chronological order
- Annotate a poem, paying special attention to literary devices
- Match literary devices to definitions
- Write 2-3 paragraphs about a new poem, noting literary devices & thematic inquiry

Review...

- Tests
- Quizzes
- Vocab definitions
- Class notes
- Reading notes

Prepare for finals the college way!

- Study in advance
- Form a study group and meet at least twice