

**ANNAI VAILANKANNI ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE  
THANJAVUR**

(UGC Recognised 2(f) 12 (B) Institution)  
Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirappalli

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**QUESTION BANK**

CLASS - II M.A  
(III SEMESTER)

NOVEMBER 2020

**TITLE OF THE PAPER  
AMERICAN LITERATURE**

Compiled by  
**Dr A. NAFEES SULTANA., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., P.G.D.C.A.,  
Assistant Professor of English,  
PG & Research Department of English**

# **CONTENT**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1.	SYLLABUS	03
2.	TWO-MARK QUESTIONS UNIT – I	04
3.	UNIT –II	07
4.	UNIT –III	12
5.	UNIT – IV	15
6.	UNIT – V	18
7.	FIVE MARK QUESTIONS	21
8.	TEN MARK QUESTIONS	23

## **SYLLABUS**

### **UNIT: I**

1. The Raven – Edgar Allan Poe
2. When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd – Walt Whitman
3. Because I Could Not Stop For Death – Emily Dickinson
4. Birches – Robert Frost

#### **UNIT- II**

5. To Brookyl Bridge – Hart Crane
6. The Grasshopper – E.E.Cummings
7. The Emperor of Ice-Cream – Wallace Stevens
8. Yachts – William Carlos Williams
9. Daddy – Sylvia Plath

#### **UNIT – III**

10. Self- Reliance – Ralph Waldo Emerson
11. Where I Lived and What I Lived For? (From Walden Pond) – Henry David Thoreau
12. Inaugural Address – John F.Kennedy (Presidential Inauguration of John F.Kennedy On January 20, 1961 at Washington D.C)

#### **UNIT – IV**

13. The Emperor Jones – Eugene O'Neill
14. All My Sons – Arthur Miller

#### **UNIT – V**

15. For Whom the Bell Tolls – Ernest Hemingway

### **TWO MARK QUESTIONS**

#### **UNIT – I**

1. What does the bust of Pallas represent?  
The bust of Pallas represents the Greek goddess of wisdom which is in keeping with the scholarship of the lover. There is also the sonorousness attached to the word 'Pallas' needed for such moments.
2. What does the bird stand for?  
The bird itself is seen as grim, ghastly giant and ominous bird of yore. It is characteristic enough when the poet makes its "fiery eyes" burn into the 'bosom's core'.
3. How does the bird reply when it is addressed?  
Whenever the raven is addressed, it replies customarily with one word 'nevermore'. In the process one is impelled by the human thirst for self-torture and fear of the superstition.
4. What is the effect created at the end of the poem?  
There is some amount of complexity and suggestiveness implied in the concluding stanzas of the poem. The effect of mourning and that of remembrance could be distinctly felt at the end of the poem.
5. What according to Poe, is the most legitimate poetical tone?  
Melancholy is the most legitimate of all the poetical tones. The refrain 'nevermore' has the force of monotone both in sound and thought. Poe creates novel effects by the continual introduction of the application of the refrain.
6. What is the form of the poem "When Lilac Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd? What does it express?  
It is an elegy in free verse divided into sixteen numbered sections. Written shortly after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the poem expresses both Walt Whitman's grief and his effort to incorporate the president's death into an understanding of the universal cycle of life and death.
7. What is the significance of the lilac symbol used in the poem?  
In the stanza three the poet points out the lilac bush blooming in the dooryard. The tall lilac bush with heart-shaped leaves is a natural symbol of the human heart and its capacity to mourn and also its capacity to renew itself.
8. How does Whitman welcome death in his poem?  
Whitman creates a lyric of welcome to delicate death, calling it 'a dark mother' and a 'Strong deliverer' from the struggle of existence, a peaceful release into the elements of the Universe.
9. By what means the poet tries to contain his anguish?  
The Poet's vision of the lilacs blooming in the dooryard, the reciprocal song of the poet and the thrush and the governing image of the western star are the means for him to find a way both to contain his anguish and find its expression in the natural and human elements.
10. What does the word 'Warble' signify?

Whitman applies the word 'warble' both to the bird and to himself, making the word stand for the identity between him and nature.

11. What do 'delicate color'd blossoms' mean?

The poet's precise observation of the 'delicate color'd blossoms' refer to the lilac externally and to Lincoln internally. It signifies Whitman's understanding of this individual instance of death. It becomes linked to his expanded awareness of how all death is figured in Lincoln's loss.

12. What things are repeated at the end of the poem? What do they suggest?

The thrush singing in the swamps and out of the dusk, the cedar and the pines are repeated at the very end of the poem. They suggest what the poet observes in nature is what he becomes. It is all twined together with his nature as a poet.

13. How does the poet convey his sensuous experience through the poem?

Each recurrence of images such as the delicious coming of the evening and the mastering odour of the lilac builds up a body of sensuous experience, of sight and smell, that in itself excites a desire for repetition, a longing to see and smell the lilacs bloom again. It also imparts a realization that this very joy cannot be attained without participation in the rites of death.

14. What is the ultimate message that Whitman intends to convey through the poem?

The poem is a good tribute to the departed soul and an inspiring piece of the bereaved American for unity and vigour in the days ahead, though the vision of life and death has been presented as Universal.

15. How is death personified in the poem "Because I Could Not Stop for Death"?

Death is personified throughout the poem. Death in the form of a gentleman suitor stops to pick up the speaker and take her on a ride in his horse-drawn carriage.

16. What does the speaker notice when the carriage passes by?

They move along at a pretty relaxed pace. The speaker seems completely at ease with the gentleman. As they pass through the town, she sees children at play, fields of grain and the setting sun.

17. What is the condition of the speaker at dusk?

As dusk sets in, the speaker gets a little chilly, as she is completely under-dressed. She is only wearing a thin silk shawl for a coat. She is unprepared for her impromptu date with Death.

18. What do the symbols in the third stanza suggest?

By uniting the disparate symbols in the manner of metaphysical poetry, the poet suggests the successive stages of human life. The carriage is the hears and the dwelling penultimate stanza is the tomb.

19. How does Emily Dickinson conclude her poem “Because I Could Not Stop for Death”?  
Death takes the speaker to her new home, “ A Swelling of the Ground”, whose roof is “Scarcely visible”. The entire episode, including the speaker’s awareness of her death, seems less than a day in length. The poem fuses elements of the secular seduction motif, with elements of the medieval bride-of-Christ tradition.
20. What do the young boys do with the birches?  
The pliable, malleable quality of the birch tree captures the poet’s attention and kicks off his meditation. Perhaps the young boys don’t bend birches down to stay, but swing them they do and thus bend them momentarily.
21. How do the birches fascinate the poet?  
Fascinated by the show of loveliness before him, Frost admires nature around him as it performs the potter’s art, cracking and crazing the enamel of ice coating on the birch trees. It is not finally the thing itself that interests the poet, but the strange association he is tempted to make: “You’d think the inner dome of heaven had fallen”.
22. What kind of wish does Frost express through his poem?  
Frost expresses his wish to get away from the earth for some time. He will begin over afresh. He wants that no one need misunderstand him on this score. He expects them not to say anything against his wish.
23. How does Frost describe human life through his poem “Birches”?  
The protagonist confesses that he once was a swinger of the birches. It is natural for anyone to go weary and feel troubled. The poet makes it clear that life is too much like a pathless wood, where the affected person’s face burns and tickles with cobwebs. One of the eyes is filled with tears because of the impact of the twig lashing at it cross wide.
24. What does the boy do with his father’s trees?  
The boy checks his father’s trees by riding them down over and over again. He takes the stiffness out of them. Not a single tree is left for him to win over. He could not launch himself too soon and so he does not carry the tree away from its place. He keeps them poised to the top branches. He climbs upon them carefully to make it full and even above the limit.
25. How kind of wish does Frost express through his poem?  
Frost expresses his wish to get away from the earth for some time. He will begin over afresh. He wants that no one need misunderstand him on this score. He expects them not to say anything against his wish.
26. How does Frost view the earth in the poem “Birches”?

Frost makes it clear that the earth is the right place for living and loving. For his part he would like to climb a birch tree and get cheerful with the snow-white trunk of the tree. He wishes to reach up to heaven till the tree could go up no more high.

27. How does Frost achieve balance towards the close of the poem “Birches”?

At the end of the poem “Birches” a balance has been restored between the claims of a redeeming imagination in its transcendent form and the claims of common sense reality. The psychic needs of change are balanced by the equally deep psychic need for the therapy of dull realities and everyday considerations.

28. What do the closing pronouncements on life, death and human aspiration signify?

Its closing pronouncements on life, death and human aspiration do not arise from a particular experience. Instead, they are presented as doctrines that we must accept or reject on the basis of our credence in the speaker as a wise countryman whose familiarity with birch trees, ice storms, and pathless woods gives him authority as a philosopher.

## UNIT – II

1. How does the poem “To Brooklyn Bridge” open?

The poem opens on the image of a seagull taking off in flight. The image us on a body of water-specifically the East River. The Brooklyn Bridge spans this river, connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn.

2. How is the sea-gull described in the opening stanza of the poem?

“How many dawns” has a timeless quality, the endless repetition of taking flight in the morning. The seagull is cold, “chill” from his “rippling rest”. That is, the gull has been sitting on the rippling waters. The “dip” and “pivot” of the gull’s flight provide vivid descriptions of motion.

3. What reaction do the wings of the sea-gull create in the poet’s mind?

The seagull flies in circles above the bridge, higher and higher. In the poet’s mind, the wings of the gull create “tumult” in the air as they pass. The word “tumult” also means “chaos” or “disorder” to which the order and form of the bridge provide a stark contrast..

4. What does the word ‘liberty’ signify in the second stanza of the poem?

The last word of the second stanza is mysterious – “Liberty”. Literally, the bird passes the Statue of Liberty. But “Liberty” is also what the bird has been ‘building’. Flight is a common symbol for freedom. By extension, the Brooklyn Bridge is a symbol of liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of ideas, etc..

5. What does the curved shape of the bird imply?

The flight of the birds continues to have a “curved” shape. The curve is unbroken or ‘inviolable’. The curve implies smoothness, continuity and of course the shape of the suspension bridge.

6. To which figure the sea-gulls are composed?

The seagulls are like the sales figures that pass under the eyes of an office worker in New York all day long. The figures must be “filed away” by a clerk. But they are transient, insubstantial, and ultimately, perhaps meaningless.

7. What description of cinemas does Crane give in his poem?  
Crane gives a very suspicious, almost paranoid description of the act of watching movies. The movies are like a trick, or “sleight”. A “panorama” is also a relic of the 19<sup>th</sup> century- a circular space that shows some scene as it progresses.
8. Why the bridge is called “Brooklyn Bridge”?  
The poem is called “To Brooklyn Bridge” because it is literally addressed to the bridge: “Thee”. The bridge is across New York harbour from where the speaker is. The bridge has a silver “Paces” or steps. This is a tricky image: the speaker isn’t talking about stairs, but about the impression of forward movement in the bridge’s appearance.
9. Is it a bridge of freedom? Explain.  
The bridge is active and alive, not passive and dead. In terms of physics, it has potential but not kinetic energy. There is a kind of contradiction in line 16, the bridge’s freedom prevents it from moving. Maybe the speaker means that the bridge hangs “free” in the air because of its wires, and those wires also keep it from moving. At any rate, he has established the bridge as a symbol of freedom.
10. Explain the reference to ‘sky’s acetylene.’  
The brilliant light from the skies fills that space like an “acetylene” lamp. “Acetylene” is a gas that was used in street lights way back in the day. Its light is especially bright. Another take is that the “sky acetylene” is like a tooth of light biting into the city like a “rip-tide”.
11. How are the bridge’s cables described by the poet?  
The bridge’s cables are like lungs that breathe in the salty air of the Atlantic. Or maybe they are like the strings of a musical instrument. In Greek poetry the breath of the wind was compared to a musician playing a harp.
12. What does the bridge do to anonymity?  
Paradoxically, the bridge gives praise to anonymity, to people who are nothing special. Maybe that’s because the bridge is so magnificent it makes people feel small in comparison. Crane wants to turn seemingly negative things into positive ones. Time cannot exceed the bridge’s praise of anonymity or time cannot make people any more anonymous than the bridge can.
13. Explain Crane’s idea of the bridge as a harp.  
The cables in the bridge look like harp strings. An altar is a raised platform for religious ceremonies. The platform of the bridge looks like an altar. The bridge is a symbol of both poetry and religion. These two attributes are ‘fused’ by ‘fury’ which can mean passion, violence or anger.



14. What does the bridge promise to the religious-minded people?  
The bridge promises the revelation of some mystic truth, just like the pledge made by a prophet. The bridge is also, in a sense, the fulfilment of pledges made by past prophets. It looks like one of the fantastic images from the Book of Revelation.
15. What language does the bridge speak, according to Crane?  
The bridge is like a special phrase in a language- an idiom. Idioms are phrases that cannot be understood from their words alone. A “blessing in disguise” is one example. Idioms are generally “unfractioned”- they cannot be split down into parts. The bridge speaks a private and mysterious language. It makes a complete statement that cannot be put into normal words.
16. Explain the line Already snow submerges an iron year in the poem “Brooklyn Bridge”.  
The city is under a layer of snow, and maybe it’s snowing right now. The snow has “submerged” an iron year, meaning that the snows are a sign of another year passing. Crane wants us to know that the poem is set in winter, most likely either December or January, the months closest to the New Year.
17. Explain the phrase the prairies’ dreaming sod.  
Middle America is a place of dreams, and the bridge is a symbol of unity. Hart Crane loved puns, so we have to consider the erotic interpretation of these lines. An archaic word for gay men is “Sodomites,” and Crane came from the land of the prairies, rural Ohio. So in that sense he is “the prairies ‘dreaming sod” that the bridge spans.
18. What is the bridge’s defining characteristic?  
The bridge’s defining characteristic is the sweeping “curves” of its suspenders. For Crane, the bridge provides a powerful, secular mythology to replace the outdated mythology of pre-modern religious.
19. What is special about the poem “The Grasshopper”?  
The poem entitled “r-p-o-p-h-e-s-a-g-r”, or a grasshopper contains a typographical orgy of spacing, punctuation, capitals, small letters, line divisions, and anagrams of the grasshopper not to mention the chaos of grammar and word order.
20. To which aspect of the poem does Cummings give importance?  
Cummings the poet was also a professional painter and gave extreme care to the visual format of his poem. He was also a rapid circus fan and wished his playful use of words and their physical appearance on the page to be as clever as the pratfalls of a clown.
21. What is the effect produced by the poem?  
The poet meant to surprise and to amuse. He always surprised but did not always amuse the strong critics of poetry. Some he infuriated. The total effect created by the poem is one of surprise and wonder.
22. Explain the significance of the title of the poem “The Emperor of Ice Cream”.

The only emperor is the emperor of ice cream. The title of the poem signifies the following. Since life is like ice cream, the ruling standard of life and its reality is the emperor of that fact itself, so one should enjoy life, as he enjoys ice cream itself.

23. What does the plot of the poem contain?

Stevens plots this story into two equal stanzas: one for the kitchen where the ice cream is being made and another for the bedroom where the corpse awaits decent covering. He plots it further by structuring the poem as a series of commands from an unknown master of ceremonies, directing-in a diction extreme oddness – the neighbours in their funeral duties.

24. How does Stevens describe the cigarette rollers in the poem “The Emperor of Ice Cream”?

Stevens calls to mind the cigarette rollers who go about their business without thinking of the terrible effects that the cigarettes tend to produce. It is an irony that they who contribute to smoking also do their part in spreading terrible diseases like cancer, asthma, etc.

25. How is the image of lust brought out in the poem?

The poet brings in the image of lust that drives the seeker of it to enjoy it in secret places. The girls for their part contribute by wearing dresses in such a way as to lure the boys who would bring flowers and other gifts.

26. What does Stevens say about the figure in the embroidery?

The dress dealer is famous for selling soft, glass-like sheets of clothes that defy the three differently-styled glass snobs. The woman fond of it would get the image of a pigeon with a broad tail etched on it.

27. What is the conclusion arrived at in the poem?

After all is said and done, life must go on. The point is that perceptions of the world differ from person to person. They are like images on the canvases of painters from different schools of art, painters who have unique perceptions of reality even within their own school.

28. Who is the best man according to Carlos Williams?

“The Yachts” enacts a common scene in its opening stanzas: “an ungoverned ocean which when it choose/tortures the biggest hulls, the best man knows/to pit against its beatings, and sinks them . The phrase about what “the best man knows” is confusingly interpolated into the middle of a set of words about the savage power of nature. These lines call attention to the fact that even “the best man” is contained; he knows the overwhelming power of the sea and of nature.

29. How does Williams employ the motif of containment in the poem “Yachts”?

Williams employs the more general motif of containment frequently in “ The Yachts”: the sea is contained by land partly encloses, the sea is also contained by watchful guardians, ( “ a well guarded arena of open water surrounded by/lesser and greater craft,” 13-14, this phrase is

almost another instance of circumscription with “well guarded arena” and “lesser and greater craft” paradoxically enclosing “open water”)

30. Comment on the middle part of the poem “Yachts”.

The middle part of the poem works hard to cast the yacht race as playing out the victory of man over the brutal force of nature (“the waves strike at them but they (The Yachts) are too/well made, they slip through,” 23-24), however, by noticing these multiple layers of containment, the elaborate construction that goes into staging this dramatic triumph, we can see that victory is only possible if man picks his battles very carefully.

31. How does Williams demonstrate the power of bourgeoisie mythology?

Williams not only demonstrates the power of bourgeoisie mythology, he also demonstrates the mind’s power to recover, through the action of the imagination, a sense of reality. This sense of reality is reinstated through powerful representations of what has been lost or rendered unavailable through these acts of primary repression. This is performed through the intense language and imagery of the closing stanzas (“Arms with hands grasping seek to clutch at the prows....” 25).

32. What picture of the yacht does Williams present in the poem?

Williams presents a picture in which the yachts survive stormy waves and keep in entering races without taking note of the large number of people. They fall into the sea and struggle to clutch at the prows of the yachts. The “well made” smooth indestructibility of the yachts suggests how difficult it is to redistribute the social resources between the rich and the poor. The drowning scene further suggests that any attempts at social equality would be futile.

33. What is the poem “Daddy” about?

“Daddy” can be viewed as a poem about the individual trapped between herself and society. Sylvia Plath brings in the patriarchal figures – a father, the Nazis, a vampire, a husband – and then holds them all accountable for history’s horrors. Like “The Colossus”, “Daddy” imagines a larger-than-life patriarchal figure, but here the figure has a distinctly social, political aspect.

34. Who speaks the poem? What is Electra complex?

The poem is spoken by a girl with an Electra complex. The father died while she thought he was God. Her case is complicated by the fact that her father was also a Nazi and her mother very possibly part Jewish. In the daughter the two strains marry and paralyze each other.

35. How does the speaker describe her father?

She describes him as heavy, like a “bag full of God,” resembling a statue with one big gray toe and its head submerged in the Atlantic Ocean. She remembers how she at one time prayed for his return from death.

36. What do you think of the poem’s meaning?

In brief, the contradiction is at the heart of the poem's meaning. Neither its triumph nor its horror is to be taken as the sum total of the speaker's intention. Instead, each element is contradicted by its opposite, which explains how it shoulders so many distinct interpretations.

37. Tell about the train that the narrator describes.

The narrator reveals that this is no ordinary train that she travels. It is a death train taking her off to a concentration camp, one of the Nazi death factories where millions of Jews were cruelly gassed and cremated during the second world. The narrator now identifies herself fully with the Jews.

38. How is father as swastika described?

The father as swastika, the ancient Indian symbol, was used by the Nazis. The swastika is so big that it blacks out the entire sky. This could be a reference to the air raids over England during the war, when the Luftwaffe bombed many cities and 'turned the sky black'. Lines 48-50 probably allude to the fact that powerful despotic males, brutes in boots, often have female victims attracted to them.

39. What do the final lines of the poem suggest?

The girl has achieved her double killing. Both the father and the husband have been dispatched. The latter ( Ted Hughes) is referred to a vampire. He has been drinking her blood for eight years. It's as if the narrator, the girl, is reassuring her father that all is well now. He can lie back in readiness.

### UNIT – III

1. How does Emerson explain the term "Self-Reliance" in the opening statement of his essay? Emerson opens his essay with the statement, " To believe in your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, - that is genius." This in a way does answer the question of the significance of the term 'self-reliance'. Thereby Emerson implies that everyone should rely on his own thoughts and ideas.

2. What are the two barriers to self-reliance?

The valorisation of conformity by society is not the only barrier to self-reliance. As far as Emerson is concerned, another barrier is the fear for our own consistency. This is evident from his own statement: " a reverence for our past act or word because the eyes of others have no other data for computing our orbit than our past acts, and we are loth to disappoint them".

3. Why does Emerson say that self-reliant individual would be in good company?

The statesmen, philosophers and divines preserve the little minds with the ideal talk. Acting without consistency will lead to being misunderstood. Self-reliant individual would be in good company because he finds himself always in the company of great sounds in the form of literatures of the ancient period.

4. How has religion become a disease of the intellect?

As a religion, Emerson believes a lack of self-reliance has led prayers to become “ a disease of the will” and creates “ a disease of the intellect”. People aspire to have an external source to gain foreign addition to their life. They know that prayer acts as means to a private end, such as the things one desires to buy. In due course prayer has become a form of begging, but it should teach us to think about life and unite with God.

5. Why does Emerson argue that Self-reliance must be applied to all aspects of life?  
Emerson argues self-reliance must be applied to all aspects of life and shows how such an application would benefit society. He says, “ it is easy to see that a greater self-reliance must work a revolution in all the offices and relations of men; in their religion; in their education; in their pursuits; their modes of living; their association; in their property; in their speculative views”.
6. What does a true prayer involve, according to Emerson?  
Emerson is of the view that true prayer involves an avoidance of regret and discontent. It indicates a personal “infirmity of will”, and sympathy for the suffering of others. It only prolongs their own infirmity and hence should be handled with truth and health to return them to their reason.
7. What do the educated Americans do? What is Emerson’s reminder to them?  
Educated Americans wish to travel to foreign places like Italy, England and Egypt for amusement and culture. They build and replenish their houses with foreign taste, their minds cling to the past and the Distant. The artists imitate the Doric or the Gothic model. Emerson sends a rejoinder to them saying, “They who made England, Italy, or Greece venerable in the imagination, did so by sticking fast where they were, like an axis of the earth”.
8. What has the modern man lost with the advancement of time?  
With the acquisition of new technology comes the loss of old instincts. Emerson proves this by an example, “ The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet. He has a fine Geneva watch, but he fails of the skill to tell the hour by the sun”. Society goes for changes and shifts like a wave. While a “Wave moves onward....the water which it is composed does not”.
9. What does Emerson advocate to achieve self-reliance?  
Emerson feels that the people should not smugly rest on the laurels of past artistic and scientific achievements. They must instead actively work to achieve self-reliance. To acquire such a bent of mind it entails a return oneself and liberation from the chains of the religious, learned and civil institutions. Emerson concludes, “Nothing can bring you peace but yourself, Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles”
10. What does Thoreau’s close observation of nature testify?  
Thoreau’s close observation of nature testifies to his profound relationship with it, characterized both by awe of its spiritual greatness and intimacy with its everyday

workings. His first impression of the pond is still clear as gentle rain with the vista and mountains spreading out behind it.

11. What does Thoreau find in his new living place?

Thoreau finds that his new living place, so close by, has all the glories of nature and made him feel just as far away from his previous life as if he had travelled far. He criticizes society's taste for travel because they could be experiencing the full effect of their nearby surroundings, for which he has great respect.

12. How does Thoreau describe the morning time?

Morning is Thoreau's invitation to make his life simple and commune with nature. Every morning he bathes in the pond, calling it a "religious exercise". He calls morning the time that all important events, including poetry and art, occur. It is the time that "intelligences wake," as the Vedas say.

13. What does Thoreau urge each man?

Thoreau urges each man to awaken fully and "elevate his life by conscious endeavour". It is man's duty to make every moment of his life meaningful. Thoreau went to the woods to "live deliberately". He has faith in simplicity as the path to spiritual wakefulness. Transcendentalism sets out Thoreau's spiritual goals, self-reliance and the simplicity it entails, is the method he uses to go after them.

14. What does Thoreau do to rail at the absurdity of man and the post office?

Thoreau laughs about the absurdity of a man who wakes from a nap and asks for the news when he is not really awake to life. He rails against the post-office because he has never read something truly important in a letter or even in a newspaper, which contains only gossip. It shows that a man is concerned with the petty dealings of society over his own spiritual life. The post-office is just another distracting modern invention.

15. How should one experience spiritual truth?

Men often confuse the appearance of things with reality believes, but with true wisdom and unhurriedness it is possible to get past "Petty Pleasures" and perceive matters of true worth. God is in the present moment. In order to experience spiritual truth, one must spend one's days as deliberately as nature.

16. Why does Thoreau give importance to reading?

Thoreau emphasizes the work of reading, just as he stresses the work of farming and home-owning; he compared the great reader to an athlete who has subjected himself to long training and regular exercise. He gives an almost mystical importance to the printed word.

17. What does Thoreau say on his new building project?

When Thoreau first moves into his dwelling on Independence Day, it gives him a proud sense of being a god on Olympus, even though the house still lacks a chimney and

plastering. He claims that a paradise fit for gods is available everywhere, if one can perceive it: "Olympus is but the outside of the earth everywhere"

18. What is the significance of the inaugural ceremony of president Kennedy

The inaugural ceremony is a defining moment in a president's career. John F. Kennedy prepared for his own inauguration on January 20, 1961. He wanted his address to be short and clear- devoid of any partisan rhetoric and focused on foreign policy. He began constructing and speech in late November, working with friends and advisers.

19. What does Kennedy highlight in his speech?

Kennedy highlights the newly-discovered dangers of nuclear power coupled with the accelerating arms race, and essentially makes the main point that this focus on pure firepower should be replaced with a focus on maintenance of international relations and helping the impoverished in the world.

20. Quote the famous words of Kennedy from his speech.

Kennedy's famous words, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can for your country" from the core of his speech. This use of chiasmus, as used by Cicero, can be seen even as a thesis statement of his speech- a call to action for the public to do what is right for the greater good.

21. What is the strategy the speaker follows in the fifth passage?

The strategy is clear in the fifth passage when Kennedy says, "United there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided there is like we can do," again appealing to the idea of refocusing of international values. Again, after exhorting "Both sides" to action" to action, he calls on all of us to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle...against the common enemies of man; tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself".

22. Which part of his speech challenges the American public?

A great line to emphasize this is in the fourth from last passage, where he states, " In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger", a simple twist of words that challenges the American public rather than frightening them.

#### UNIT - IV

1. How is Brutus Jones introduced in the play "The Emperor Jones"?

Brutus Jones is introduced as a former Pullman porter and a contemptuous monarch in an obscure West Indian island. He has come here as a stowaway fugitive from a southern chain gang. He is Cockney overseer and a tall and powerfully formed Negro of middle age.

2. How does he look in his new statue as emperor?

As a tall hero, Brutus Jones strides into his throne in a blue uniform cost sprayed with brass and gold, pants of bright red and brass-spurred patent leather boots. A pearl-handled revolver is at his belt.

3. How does he propose to continue his rule, despite threats from the blacks opposed to him? He has a legend about him saying that he could be killed only by a silver bullet. He craftily loads the dice for such a happening to protect himself from his enemies.
4. What is the emperor's reaction toward his enemies?  
To those who are opposed to him he would say thus: "i an't no fool. I know his emperor's time is sho't. What good is money if you stay back in this raggedy country? When I see these niggers getting' up there nerve to turn me out and I'se got all the money in sight, I beats it quick".
5. What is the warning given by Smithers to the emperor about the enemies' movement?  
Smithers says that the horses have been stolen and it will become a pretty problem to escape from the place. It is a twelve hour struggle through the forest to the coast and these blacks can sniff a trail in the dark like the hounds.
6. How does the emperor respond to his warning?  
Jones boasts saying that by dawn the next day he will be on the coast. That French gunboat will take him to Martinique and there will be safe with a mighty big bank roll in his jeans.
7. What makes Jones feel apprehensive? How does he react?  
On hearing the thumping of a tom-tom, apprehension creeps into the emperor's face. Pretending to be fearless he says that those fool niggers don't know when they are dealing with a man who has been a member in good standing of the Baptist Church.
8. With What protective weapon does he escape from the palace?  
With five lead bullets for the common niggers and a silver one for himself, he saunters out through the front door of the palace and across the plain with a casual, " So long, white man".
9. What does Jones do on seeing a white guard?  
A white guard motions Jones to take his place in line, striking him with his whip. When the guard's back is turned, Jones springs to crash a shovel upon his skull, but his upraised hands are empty. "Ghost or debbil, i kill yo'again! He bawls and fires at the guard's back.
10. What happens to Jones when he comes to the altar-like structure?  
Jones comes to an altar-like structure of rock by a river and kneels before. A witch doctor, body dyed red, with horns upon his headdresses, prances from the trees and begins a chant of sacrifice. Jones suddenly knows that it is he who must offer himself. The priest summons from the river a gigantic crocodile, but Jones fires his last bullet of silver and his tormentors disappear.
11. Who finds out the fleeing Jones in the end? What happens finally to him?



Lem finds Jones at the edge of the forest. The soldiers, at Lem's gesture, cock their rifles and glide among the trees. Shots are heard, accompanied by exultant yells. The beat of the tom-tom ceases. Lem says:

"I took um money, make um silver bullet. Make um strong charm, too". The soldiers reappear, carrying the body of the Emperor Jones.

12. What is Keller's profession? Who is his partner?

Joe Keller is the owner of a manufacturing plant making cylinder heads for the airplanes. Steve Deever is his partner in this manufacturing firm.

13. What made them get arrested? Why was Joe alone allowed to go free?

It was discovered that the defective parts caused twenty-one planes to crash and their pilots to die. Steve and Keller were arrested and convicted, but Keller managed to win an appeal and get his conviction overturned. He claimed that Steve did not call him and that he was completely unaware of the shipment. Keller went home free, while Steve remained in Jail.

14. Who is found missing? Who is his lover?

Larry, Joe's elder son is found missing. Ann, Steve's daughter is his lover. She now starts Chris Keller, Larry's younger brother

15. What happens to Larry and why is he reported missing?

Larry received word about the plane accident due to the alleged involvement of his father and Steve Deever. Filled with shame and grief, he wrote a letter to Ann telling her that she must wait for him. Larry then went out to fly a mission, during which he broke out of formation and crashed his plane, killing himself. Larry was reported missing.

16. What makes Kate believe that Larry is alive and will return home soon?

Kate sees the blowing down of Larry's memorial tree as a positive sign. Her superstition has also led her to ask the neighbour to make a horoscope for Larry. She does so to determine whether the day he disappeared was an astrologically favourable day. Everyone else has accepted that Larry is not coming home.

17. What is George's charge against Joe Keller?

George meets his father Steve in prison and informs him of the wedding plans of his sister with Larry. He comes to know from his father that it is Keller who actually asked him to supply the defective cylinder heads to the Army. At the time of the defective cylinder heads to the Army. At the time of investigation Joe gets excuse saying that he is down with flu and that he does not know anything about the supply of the defective parts. George's charge is that Joe is the man responsible for the killing of 21 pilots.

18. Why is Chris angry towards his father?

Chris shouts angrily at his father charging him with inhuman murder of fellow citizens. He wonders what he must do in response to this unpleasant new information about his family history. After hearing from George about the involvement of his father in the deal, Chris is disillusioned and devastated and he runs off to be angry at his father in privacy.

19. What does Larry's suicide note indicate?

The suicide note clearly indicated the role of both Joe and Steve in the killing of 21 pilots in the plane. Mother's believes that if Larry is dead, then Keller is equally responsible. Larry killed himself in response to the family responsibility and shame due to the defective parts.

20. What happens at the end of the play?

Keller now understands that in the eyes of Larry and in a symbolic moral sense, all the dead pilots were his sons. He says that he will drive to the jail and turn himself in. But a moment later, a gunshot is heard- Keller has killed himself.

### UNIT – V

1. Why have Widow Douglas and Miss Watson taken Huck into their home?

Huck has become rich from his last adventure with Tom Sawyer. Widow Douglas and her sister, Miss Watson have taken Huck into their Home in order to try and teach him religion and proper manners. Instead of obeying his guardians, however, Huck sneaks out of the house at night to join Tom Sawyer's gang and pretend that they are robbers and pirates.

2. Why does Huck fears about his father?

Pap has a history of violence and drunkenness, Huck is worried about his father's intentions, especially toward his invested money. When Pap confronts Huck and warns him to quit school and stop trying to better himself, Huck continues to attend school. Huck's fears are soon realized when Pap kidnaps him and takes him across the Mississippi River to a small cabin on the Illinois shore.

3. How does Huck escape from his father's custody?

Although Huck becomes somewhat comfortable with his life free from religion and school, Pap's beating become too severe. Huck fakes his own murder and escaped down the Mississippi. He lands a few miles down at Jackson's Island and there he stumbles across Miss Watson's slave, Jim, who has run away for fear he will be sold down the river.

4. How do the two fugitives, Jim and Huck live their lives after their escape?

Huck and Jim learn that men are coming to search Jackson's Island. So the two fugitives escape down the river on a raft. Jim's plan is to reach the Illinois town of Cairo and from there, he can take the Ohio River up to the free states. The plan troubles Huck and his conscience. However, Huck continues to stay with Jim as they travel, despite his belief that he is breaking all of society and religion's tenets.

5. What do Huck and Jim encounter during their flight?

Huck and Jim encounter a band of robbers aboard a wrecked steamboat and two Southern "genteel" families who are involved in a bloody feud. The only time that Huck and Jim feel that they are truly free is when they are aboard the raft. This freedom and tranquillity are shattered by the arrival of the duke and the king, who commandeer the raft and force Huck and Jim to stop at various river towns in order to perform confidence scams on the inhabitants.

6. How do Tom and Huck plan the release of Jim, now in captivity?  
After Huck explains Jim's captivity, Tom takes on the guise of his own brother, Sid. He suggests they concoct an elaborate plan to free Jim. Tom's plan is haphazardly based on several of the prison and adventure novels he has read. The simple act of freeing Jim becomes a complicated farce with rope ladders, snake, and mysterious messages.
7. What does Tom's Aunt Polly reveal about the true identity of Huck and Tom?  
Tom's Aunt Polly arrives and reveals Huck and Tom's true identities to the Phelps family. Jim is revealed to be a free man. Miss Watson died two months earlier and freed Jim in her will, but Tom, who already knew this, chose not to reveal this information to Huck so that he could come up with an artful rescue plan for Jim.
8. What is the plan of Huck at the end of the novel?  
Jim tells Huck that Huck's father, Pap Finn has been dead for some time. He was found dead earlier in the floating house and so Huck may now return safely to St. Peterburg. Huck declared that he is quite glad to be done writing his story. Despite Sally's plans to adopt and civilize him, he intends to flee west to Indian Territory.
9. Who is the protagonist of the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls? What is the Job assigned to him?  
An American named Robert Jordan, who has left the United States to enlist on the Republican side in the war, travels behind the enemy lines to work with Spanish guerrilla fighters. He hides in the mountains to fight his enemies. The Republican command has assigned Robert Jordan the dangerous and difficult task of blowing up a Fascist-controlled bridge as part of a larger Republican offensive.
10. Who is Pablo? Why does Jordon suspect his moves on the battle front?  
A peasant named Anselmo guides Robert Jordan to the guerrilla camp, hidden in a cave. Along the way, they encounter Pablo, the leader of the camp, who greets Robert Jordan with hostility. He opposes the bridge operation because he believes it endangers the guerrillas' safety. Robert Jordan suspects that Pablo may betray or sabotage the mission.
11. Who is Pilar? List the six other inhabitants of the camp?  
Pilar is Pablo's woman. A large, sturdy part-gypsy, she appears to be the real leader of the band of guerrillas. A rapport quickly develops between Robert Jordan and Pilar. In the evening, Robert Jordan meets six other inhabitants of the camp: the unreliable Rafael, feisty and foul-mouthed Agustin, dignified Fernando, old Primitivo and brothers Andres and Eladio. The camp also shelters a young woman named Maria, whom a band of Fascists raped not long before. Robert Jordan and Maria are immediately drawn to each other.
12. What does Maria confess to Pilar?  
On the way back to Pablo's camp, Robert Jordam and Maria make love in the forest. When they catch up with Pilar, Maria confesses to Pilar that the earth moved as they made love. On hearing this, Pilar feels impressed and says that such a thing happens no more than three times in a person's lifetime.

13. Why do Agustin and Jordan want to kill Pablo?

At the camp, a drunken Pablo insults Robert Jordan, who tries to provoke Pablo, hoping to find an excuse to kill him. Pablo refuses to be provoked, even when Agustin hits him in the face when Pablo steps away for a few minutes, the others agree that he is dangerous and must be killed. Robert Jordan volunteers to do it. Suddenly, Pablo returns and announces that he has changed his mind and will help with the bridge.

14. Describe the Fascist assault on El Sordo's men.

The scene shifts to El Sordo's hill, which a group of Fascists is assaulting. El Sordo's men play dead and manage to shoot the Fascist captain, but several minutes later, Fascist planes bomb the hilltop and kill everyone in El Sordo's band. The ranking Fascist officer orders the beheading of all the corpses of El Sordo's men.

15. What news does Jordan dispatch to the Republican command about the bombing of El Sordo's hill?

The guerrillas at Pablo's camp, having heard the planes bomb El Sordo's hill, fell glum as they eat lunch. Robert Jordan writes a dispatch to the Republican command recommending that both the bridge operation and the larger offensive be cancelled. He sends news that the Fascists are aware of the plan and the operation will not succeed. He sends Andres to deliver the dispatch to the headquarters of General Goiz, a Republican leader.

16. What is the warning issued by Pilar to Robert Jordan on the Fascist blowing the operation?

At two in the morning, Pilar wakes Robert Jordan and reports that Pablo has fled the camp with some of the explosives that were meant to blow the bridge. Though furious at first, Robert Jordan controls his anger and plans to carry out the operation anyway, with fewer explosives.

17. What does Pablo do after a few days of his going away from the Republican camp?

Pablo suddenly returns just before dawn, claiming that he left in a moment of weakness. He says that he threw the explosives into the river but felt great loneliness after doing so. He has brought back five men with their horses from neighbouring guerrilla bands to help. The fighters take their positions.

18. Why are Andres and his men arrested? Does Jordan succeed in freeing them?

Crossing into Republican territory, Andres is slowed when several suspicious but apathetic officers question him. When Andres and his escort finally reach Golz's headquarters, a politician named Andre Marty suspects that they are Fascist spies and orders them arrested. Robert Jordan's friend Karkov hears about the arrests and uses his influence to free the men. Robert Jordan's dispatch finally reaches Golz but arrives too late. The Republican offensive already has begun and can no longer be stopped.

19. What happens when Robert Jordan and Anselmo fight with the Fascist groups?

Robert Jordan and Anselmo descend on the bridge; shoot the Fascist sentries and plant the explosives. Pilar arrives and says that Elandio has been killed, while Fernando is fatally wounded. When Robert Jordan detonates the explosives, the bridge falls, but shrapnel from the blast strikes Anselmo and kills him. Pablo emerges from below, saying that all five of

his men are dead. Agustin accuses Pablo of shooting the men for their horses, and Pablo does not deny it.

20. What happens to Jordan in the end?

As the group crosses the road in retreat, a Fascist bullet hits Robert Jordan's horse, which tramples on Robert Jordan's left leg, breaking it. Knowing that he must be left behind, Robert Jordan says goodbye to Maria. Alone, Robert Jordan contemplates suicide but resolves to stay alive to hold off the Fascists. He is grateful for having lived, in his final few days, a full lifetime. For the first time, he feels "integrated", in harmony with the world. As the Fascist lieutenant approaches, Robert Jordan takes aim, feeling his heart beating against the floor of the forest.

### FIVE MARK QUESTIONS

1. How does Poe bring out the psychic lover's condition in the beginning of the poem "The Raven"?
2. What is the ultimate impression deepened in the poem "The Raven"?
3. What do the two concluding stanzas of the poem "The Raven" suggest?
4. Discuss the features of versification in the poem "The Raven"
5. How does Whitman express his grief over the death of Lincoln?
6. How is the message conveyed by Whitman in the poem?
7. Give the symbolic significance of three symbols employed by Whitman in the poem?
8. Comment on the general structure of the Whitman's poem "Lilac".
9. Bring out the theme in Frost's poem "Birches".
10. What effect do the ice storms have on Birches?
11. What figurative values does Frost attach to the poem "Birches"?
12. Discuss the features of the poem "To Brooklyn Bridge".
13. How does the poet describe the seagull's flight?
14. How is the bridge visualized as a symbol of freedom?
15. Explain how the bridge acts as the symbol of poetry and religion.
16. Discuss the form of the poem "The Grasshopper"
17. Bring out the theme of the poem "The Grasshopper"
18. Explain the first stanza in the poem "The Emperor of Ice Cream"
19. Explain the narrator's approach in the poem "The Emperor of Ice Cream"
20. How does Willams link the political race with the Yacht racing?
21. What does the poet highlight through the Yachts?

22. Bring out the contrast in the poem “Yachts”.
23. What is the message in the poem “Daddy”
24. Discuss the opening the poem “Daddy” by Sylvia Plath
25. Write a note on the occult symbols used in the poem.
26. What references do the last stanzas highlight about the poet’s father and her husband?
27. Bring out Emerson’s opening thoughts on Self-reliance.
28. What will bring about a sound life, according to Emerson?
29. What is the philosophical basis for self-reliance?
30. What does Emerson say in the concluding part of his essay on Self-reliance?
31. How does Thoreau contemplate what a life could be’ amidst nature?
32. Discuss Thoreau’s criticism of the dominant culture of Concord.
33. Where does, according to Thoreau, lie the American prejudice against education?
34. What is the main focus of Kennedy’ speech?
35. How did Kennedy prepare his inaugural speech?
36. How does Kennedy conclude his speech?
37. Bring out the significance of the opening scene in the play “ The Emperor Jones”
38. How does O’Neill depict Jones in the forest scenes?
39. Bring out instances of symbolism in the play “ The Emperor Jones”
40. What is the part played by Smithers in the play?
41. Discuss the role played by the Witch Doctor in the play.
42. What is the part played by Smithers in the he play?
43. Discuss the role played by the Witch Doctor in the play.
44. Explain the significance of the first act in the play “All My Sons”.
45. What is the role played by Anne in the play?
46. describe the courtroom confrontation between father and son in the second act in the play  
“ All my Sons”
47. How is the mother’s self-deception brought out in the third act of the play “All My Sons”?
48. Bring out the conflicting moralities shown through the father and the son in the play.
49. Explain what happens to Huck when he lives with his father.
50. Narrate the experiences of Huck and Jim in Jackson’s Island.
51. Describe Huck’s life with the Grangerfords and Shepherdsons.

52. Describe Huck's adventures with the two swindlers, the Duke and the King.
53. Explain Tom's role in freeing Jim from his captors.
54. Write a note on the theme of death in the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls"
55. Bring out the central idea in the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls"
56. Write a short note on the character of Pilar.
57. Comment on the title of the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls"

### TEN MARK QUESTIONS

1. Consider "The Raven" as a study of the psychological disintegration of a sensitive mind. Poe's poem "The Raven" is about the legendary black bird of ill omen. The atmosphere created in the poem is something special, which sets the poem of this kind. The atmosphere of melancholy and artificiality is woven into the texture of the poem. Poe's critical essay "The Philosophy of Composition" uses this poem as an illustrative model. Poe discovered that melancholy is the highest manifestation of beauty. He thought that the refrain is commonly employed to produce effect.
2. Explain what makes the poem "The Raven" special.  
Poe has special features added to it to signify the theme projected through them. It was published in the year 1845. This poem is typical of Poe's peculiar genius for the psychiatric portrayal of the bereaved lover as well as the method of versification and style. A tame raven which says 'nevermore' has broken loose on a stormy night and seeks admission into the bereaved lover's place. He is in a dream-like state thinking all the time about his lady love.
3. Explain the reconciliation theme in the poem "When Lilacs in the Dooryard Bloom'd".  
The poem mourns the loss of the beloved national leader, Abraham Lincoln. It is a dramatization of the reconciliation to that loss that becomes ultimately a kind of reconciliation to all deaths. The poet's emotions revolve about the major elements of the setting of the poems- the star, lilac and bird. The insight into death as a spiritual rebirth has through the bird's song attracted the poet to the swamp cedars. The poet's joining hands with both the companions symbolizes his reconciliation of love of life and a love of death, each a fulfilment of its own kind. The reconciliation is stated explicitly near the opening of the poet's spiritual tally of the thrush's song.
4. How does the poet unite the two broad themes- America my land and death?  
Walt Whitman was born in a farming community in Huntington, Long Island. He had his formal education at Brooklyn. He left school early to work as an apprentice printer. He worked also as a school teacher in a number of long Island schools. The poem reveals a

darkening mood and profound feelings for the departed leader, Lincoln. The drama of the poem is not just Lincoln's death, but the protagonist's grief at his death.

5. Write a critical appreciation of the poem "Because I Could Not Stop for Death"  
Death appears personified in this poem as a courtly beau who gently insists that the speaker put aside both "labour" and "leisure". He arrives in his carriage, having stopped for her because she could not have stopped for him. Their drive is slow, and they pass the familiar sights of the town: fields of grain which gaze at them, the local school and its playground.
6. Consider Emily Dickinson as a poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century American poet.  
Emily Dickinson's poems are unique in a total sense. As she comes of Yankee heritage; she is not without those characteristics which reflect very much in her poems. She squeezes worlds of meaning into the smallest space. Her longest poem extends to only fifty lines. Her poems deal with nature, death, immortality, psychological obsession, love and friendship. She knows death better than others who have delegated its handling to hospitals and mortuaries. This poem is also one such attempt at trying to go behind the mystery of death.
7. Bring out Robert Frost's vision in the poem "Birches"  
In the poem "Birches", Robert Frost takes an image of a birch tree whose branches have been worn from the winter and transforms the literal image into a deeper poem about escaping from the ground. Frost uses symbolism in almost every line of the poem, relating the literal to the imagination. Frost brings in the image of a small boy using the tree as his only playmate. He describes how the boy explores every part of the tree, leaving no branch untouched. The branches never break or weaken. They stay strong through all of the trials he puts them through. The boy spends hours in this tree merely playing in a place that no one will interrupt his imagination and carefree spirit.
8. Discuss Robert Frost as a poet of nature and imagination.  
In "Birches" Frost begins to probe the power of his redemptive imagination as it moves from its playful phase toward the brink of dangerous transcendence. The movement into transcendence is a movement into a realm of radical imaginative freedom. The pliable, malleable quality of the birch tree captures the poet's attention and kicks off his meditation. Perhaps young boys don't bend birches down to stay, but swing them they do and thus bend them momentarily.
9. Discuss the theme of Crane's poem "To Brooklyn Bridge".  
Liberty as a theme: The use of the word liberty is mysterious. Literally, the bird passes the Statue of Liberty. But 'Liberty' is also what the bird has been "building". Flight is a common symbol for freedom. By extension, the Brooklyn Bridge is a symbol of liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of ideas, etc.
10. Bring out the significance of imagery in the poem "To Brooklyn Bridge"  
Imagery of Business and Office, Images from Movies and Bridge as Agent of Prophecy.



The imagery of business and the office interrupts the romantic opening of the poem. An officer worker looks at sales figures all day until he takes the elevator down at the end of the day. The elevator drops its riders like an impersonal act of abandonment.

11. Comment on the technique used by Cummings in his poem “The Grasshopper”.

Cummings is known for poems that played wildly with form and spacing, punctuation, capitalization, overall grammar and pacing. His work was also known for its focus on nature, sexuality and love, in both a sensual and a spiritual sense. Is rather peculiar use of so many unusual techniques in his poems, makes them particularly difficult to explain in a brief way.

12. Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem “The Emperor of ice Cream” highlighting the theme of transience of life.

The central image in the poem is complex, ambiguous and ambivalent. The emperor of ice cream is further specified as the only emperor. Death is the end of life, a natural and inevitable thing. The poem ends by repeating this statement: “the only emperor is the emperor of ice cream”. There are two possible interpretations of the ice cream - one that the emperor is life, the other that he is dead. Ice cream is tasty, transitory and cold; life may be tasty and perishable but is not cold. The quality of coldness may suit death, for it is cold but scarcely transitory, unless we assume that Stevens believes in an after-life. This complication in the meaning of the image of ice cream seems to suggest that life and death are inextricably bound together.

13. William Carlos Williams’s poem “ The Yachts” is full of literary features – Discuss

In “The Yachts”, Williams’s more typical penchant for imagistic presentation coexists with a tendency toward symbolism. Halfway through the poem, there is an interesting and unusual shift from an imagistic to a symbolic mode. The occasion is a yacht race in a bay protected from the “too-heavy blows/of an ungoverned ocean”. During the preparations for the race, the speaker is impressed by the physical beauty of the graceful craft.

14. Bring out the autobiographical element in the poem “ Daddy”

The poem is spoken by a girl with an Electra complex. The father died while she thought he was God. Her case is complicated by the fact that her father was also a Nazi and her mother very possibly part Jewish. The poem can also be viewed as a poem about the individual trapped between herself and society. Plath weaves together patriarchal figures- a father, Nazis, a vampire, a husband- and then holds them all accountable for history’s horrors.

15. Sum up Emerson’s ideas on the value of and barriers to Self-reliance.

In the essay on ‘Self-Reliance’ Emerson preaches the ideals that an individual should cultivate in his life. One’s own thoughts do matter as more important than the same being thrust upon us by somebody else. Emerson speaks of the gleam of light that keeps shining in everyone and regards the same as the most powerful entity to guide on. Great works of art teach us to abide by our spontaneous impression with good-humoured inflexibility. We should not have our own opinions thrust upon us by the strangers. Envy is ignorance and

imitation is suicide. Every man's education gives him power to think over and gain new insights.

16. Explain the influence that shaped Thoreau as a writer of prominence.

In the late 1830s, the intellectual force that charged Thoreau's imagination and channelled his energies into a vocation of writing and lecturing about the possibilities of an ideal existence for man. The transcendentalist movement was the result of a heated religious controversy within the Unitarian church. And the English romantic poet Coleridge had popularized it in his country before Emerson and his fellow transcendentalists made it the core idea of their intellectual revolution in New England. In "Walden", Thoreau offers an example of one possible approach to realizing one's divinity, to fulfilling one's potential for ideal existence in the real world. Like Emerson, he advises his readers to exercise their minds and create an idea of themselves as they might ideally be, and then find the means of making the idea, or dream, come true. Thoreau made this explicit when he says that an ideal mode of life is within everyone's grasp.

17. Give a critical view on President Kennedy's inaugural address to the nation.

The inaugural ceremony is a defining moment in a President's career and no one knew this better than John F. Kennedy as he prepared for his own inauguration on January 20, 1961. He wanted his address to be short and clear- devoid of any partisan rhetoric and focused on foreign policy. According to Kennedy, the world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. He reminds that united, there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided, there is little we can do- for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder. He welcomes the new states to the ranks of the free nations. In the concluding part of his address, Kennedy calls upon his fellow Americans thus: ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country.

18. Examine "The Emperor Jones" as an expressionist play by O'Neill.

Eugene O'Neill's play "The Emperor Jones" is a play noted for its expressionistic technique. Through the main character Brutus Jones the dramatist seeks to explore the psychological human feelings coming as a kind of reaction to the happenings around him. The intense feelings of sufferings and anguish are sought to be portrayed through this device. This is effectively handled in the play by O'Neill. Expressionism is a term used for an artistic movement that was introduced in the field of painting. It came as a reaction to another such movement known as Impressionism in the beginning of the twentieth century. The term began to be used for literary forms including drama. It served as a reaction against the realistic portrayal of men and matters. This movement emerged as the strongest one in the early 1920s. Basically Expressionism is an attempt to express the inner experience and to interpret the reality of the inner self rather than imitate external real life situations. O'Neill has presented the second scene of the play, the fanciful creatures represent Jones first hallucinations in the forest and they stand for his general anxieties. O'Neil has presented the scene dramatically to depict the mental condition of the hero. The shapes, though shapeless induce fear in the mind of Jones and their very appearance provides the necessary background to enhance the expressionistic touches.

19. Examine the title of the play “All My Sons”.

Arthur Miller takes his time revealing the background information to the audience by having the characters obliquely refer to Larry and to his disappearance again and again, until all the necessary information has been revealed through natural dialog. The explanation of Keller’s and Steve’s business during the war and the ensuing scandal is similarly revealed through insinuation and association. The title of the play takes into consideration not just Joe’s sons, but all the sons of the country who should be viewed seriously as human beings waiting to lead their lives independently and safely without any selfish motive. Joe Keller’s deeds in supplying the defective cylinder heads is clearly a criminal matter in which act he induces his partner, Steve on the act on his behalf. The soldiers who died as a direct result of his actions were someone’s sons, and they all might as well have been his sons. But this line, with the title, actually serves two independent arguments that run through the work. “ All My Sons” has both an emotional center and an intellectual center. The emotional “ All My Sons” has the Keller family at its core, being relationships, in particular how their past can come back to haunt the present.

20. Bring out the theme in the novel “ Huckleberry Finn”

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn explores themes of race and identity. A complexity exists concerning Jim’s character. While some scholars point out that Jim is good-hearted, mortal and he is not unintelligent, in contrast to several of the more negatively depicted white characters. Throughout the story, Huck is in moral conflict with the received values of the society in which he lives, and while he is unable to consciously refute those values even in his thoughts, he makes a moral choice based on his own valuation of Jim’s friendship and Jim’s human worth, a decision in direct opposition to the things he has been taught. Huck’s resistance to being civilized and his inability to make his prayer productive are instances of satire in the book. The child’s mind, the make-believe romantic quality and the ruthless logical ways are all humorous pictures drawn by the novelist in his own individualistic style.

21. Attempt a character sketch of Robert Jordan in the novel “ For Whom the Bell Tolls”

In Hemingway’s novel “ For Whom the Bell Tolls” Robert Jordan is the protagonist. He joins the war front and thereby shows his loyalty to the nation. While the Fascist groups fight relentlessly against the Republican forces, it becomes very crucial to enlist oneself in the Army and do the little bit for the sake of the country. It is in such a way we find the role played by Jordan in the novel. Being an American volunteer for the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War and the protagonist of “ For Whom the Bell Tolls”, Robert Jordan is pragmatic, very good at what he does and never lets his emotions interfere with his work. He appreciates physical pleasures of the character. At the same time, he is conflicted about his role within the war and within the larger world. Interior dialogues in which he argues with himself about these conflicts constitute a significant part of the novel. Over the course of the novel, he gradually resolves these tensions and learns to integrate his rational, thinking side with his intuitive, feeling aside. The protagonist, Robert Jordan left his job as a college instructor in the United States to volunteer for the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War. Initially, he believed in the Republican cause with near-religious faith and felt an “absolute brotherhood” with his comrades on the Republican side. However, when the action of the novel starts, we see that Robert Jordan has become

disillusioned. As the conflict drags on, he realizes that he does not really believe in the Republican cause but joined their side simply because they fought against Fascism. Because he fights for a side whose causes he does not necessarily support, Robert Jordan experiences a great deal of internal conflict and begins to wonder whether there is really any difference between the Fascist and Republican sides. Toward the end of the novel, Robert Jordan assumes his post as he awaits the start of the attack on the bridge. His literal closeness to the earth highlights the natural, pre-civilized lifestyle that the guerrilla fighters lead in the wilderness. He takes this position one final time, at the very end of the novel. Comparing his position at the end of the novel to his identical position at the beginning reminds us of the ways in which Robert Jordan has changed over the course of the novel. There is something about his nature – his beating heart, which he has reawakened through his relationships with Maria and with the guerrilla fighters.

\*\*\*\*\*

STUDY HARD.  
DO GOOD  
AND THE  
GOOD LIFE  
WILL FOLLOW

\*\*\*\*\* ALL THE BEST \*\*\*\*\*

