

Fitzgerald and Hemingway: Spring 2018: Dr. Mangum

Tips for Hour Test

Works included: “The Ice Palace,” “The Jelly-Bean,” “Indian Camp,” “The End of Something,” “Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” *This Side of Paradise*, “Up in Michigan,” “The Doctor and the Doctor’s Wife,” “Winter Dreams,” “Absolution,” *The Great Gatsby*, *The Sun Also Rises*

I. Form of the Test: The test will have four sections: A) Quotations to identify by giving speaker, one spoken to, and relation to a theme of the work; B) Short answer questions in which I will ask for a bit of factual information and then have you relate your response to the answer you’ve given; C) short identifications, which will be short words or phrases that I will ask you to briefly relate to the work in which it appears; and D) an essay question. (You will have several questions from which you will choose one). A good bet for at least one of these would be to relate one or more of the works to the principles of double vision or “the golden moment” (with Fitzgerald) or to the iceberg theory or the Hemingway code (with Hemingway). Each of these concepts or ideas is discussed in excerpts from the *Survey of Short Fiction* and *Survey of Long Fiction* essays I’ve uploaded, and you might find these discussions helpful in preparing for the essay. You will respond to the question in an essay of two or so paragraphs.

II. General Tips: The first thing, of course, is to have read the texts carefully (more than once if possible). Go back through your notes and memory of the general themes we have discussed for each work; then go back through the quotations and passages we’ve discussed in class, testing yourself by connecting the quotations and passages to themes of the works (see below). In the case of *The Great Gatsby* we’ve had a relatively short time to discuss it. If we had had more time, we would have covered in detail more of the ideas contained in the article I’ve uploaded under Course Documents (Introduction to *The Great Gatsby*). When I make out the test I will count on your having read this article and will likely give you questions that will depend on your having read it. Also for background, there are four other articles on Hemingway and Fitzgerald from *Critical Survey of Short Fiction* and *Critical Survey of the Novel* that have links on our course webpage that provide background information on Fitzgerald and Hemingway’s short and long fiction. You might wish to glance at the first part of these four essays (the parts leading up through the fiction we’ve covered). I will not include questions that depend on your having read these articles, but they may help you fill in gaps related to the works we have read. (This would especially be true in the case, for example, of “Indian Camp,” which is discussed in one of the essays.

III. Studying for Quotations on Test 1:

The main thing I hope I can do in this tips sheet is to communicate my purpose in giving a section of the quotations on the test. I don’t expect that you will necessarily immediately recognize all of the quotations at first glance, though if you’ve read the texts carefully there is a good chance you will recognize many or all of them immediately (and we will have gone over many of the ones on the test in class). The real object, though, is to have you take whatever quotation is in front of you and infer from what is there a theme that the quotation seems to point to. If you are able to do this you will have a good chance of identifying the speaker and the one spoken to. Imagine the characters who might have said the quotation in front of you; then imagine to whom he or she might have said it. Go through various characters in your mind who might have said it and thus eliminate some who likely could or would not have said it. In some cases the speaker may be the narrator speaking to the reader; in others, it may be one character speaking to another. “**Theme**” is a general idea that comes from the specifics of the work. A theme has a subject and a predicate. Here is an example of how your reasoning might go. Take this quotation: “Does the gasoline affect his nose?” This is Nick speaking to Daisy, asking (presumably) why the chauffeur’s nose is up in the air. This is pointing to the subject of the feeling of superiority that comes with close association with wealth. Fitzgerald is saying here and throughout the novel that wealth (the subject) usually corrupts those whom it touches (the predicate). In all of these quotations it will be best for you to take a guess if you don’t recognize the quotation and at least try to connect the quotation to a theme of the work you “guess” it might be in. After you have given the speaker and the one spoken to, briefly contextualize the quotation (very briefly tell the circumstance) and then connect the quotation to a theme. Remember though that contextualizing itself (telling where it is in the plot of the work) is not the same as commenting on the theme (which is connecting the quotation to an idea of the work)