

English 350 – midterm study guide



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Rip Van Winkle Author: Washington Irving

Characters: Rip & Dame

Major Themes: sense of realism for the story although it was in the category of romanticism - fish out of water. Young Goodman Brown Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne

Characters: Young Goodman Brown & Faith

Themes: sin, loss of innocence The Indian Wife Author: Lydia Marie Child

Characters: Tahmiroo and Florimond de Rancé

Themes: the cruelty of the white man against the Indians; the widespread violence against them. The Fall of The House of Usher Author: Edgar Allan Poe

Characters: Roderick, Madeline and Narrator

Themes: The Gothic, the major descriptions of the story are Gothic, part of the descriptions of romanticism The Cask of Amontillado Author: Edgar Allan Poe

Characters: Fortunato and Montressor

Themes: hatred, manipulation, the Gothic, the unknown Bartleby the Scrivener Author: Herman Melville

Characters: Bartleby, narrator, Turkey, Nippers & Ginger Nut

Themes: queer reading of the story; the desire between people in the workplace and the relationships that are build between people in the workplace Life in the Iron Mills Author: Rebecca Harding Davis

Characters: Deborah & Hugh

Themes: The story revolves around a character that is between realism and romanticism; they are mundane characters but they have the sense of the gothic that is present

*This story is in between realism & romanticism!!! The Revolt of

Mother Author: Freeman

Characters: Sarah Penn, Adoniram Penn, Nanny & George

Themes: women's role in a patriarchal society and the challenging of that

role The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County Author: Mark Twain

Characters: Smiley, narrator & Wheeler

Themes: cleverness and lies that are brought on by deceit The Outcasts of

Poker Flat Author: Bret Harte

Characters: Oakhurst, The Duchess, Mother Shipton, Uncle Billy, The

Innocent & Piney

Themes: Not everyone is what they seem to be on the outside; just because

someone has to do something to make a living doesn't make them a bad

person The Luck of Roaring Camp Author: Bret Harte

Characters: Oakhurst, Tommy Luck, Stumpy & Kentucky

Themes: Luck comes into town almost as a Christ-like figure because he

brings change to the town but goes out with a flood. also utopian male

society; no utopias work The Return of a Private Author: Richard Garland

Characters: Private Edward Smith, Emma Smith, Mother Gray, Saunders &

Jim

Themes: Life after the war is still hard; although they were fighting for their

lives, when they are back at home they are fighting to feed their families and

life is never easy The Yellow Wall Paper Author: Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Characters: John, Jenny & The narrator

Themes: the rest cure doesn't work for woman; woman think they must

listen to men to be cured of their mental illness but in this case it just makes

it worse An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge Author: Ambrose Pierce

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Characters: Peyton Farquhar, his wife & other generals

Themes: The importance of time within people's lives and how they look upon time differently. Important because its after the Civil War

The Real Thing
Author: Henry James

Characters: The Monarchs & the narrator

Themes: appearance vs. reality because the Monarchs look like something they used to be but really aren't anymore
Desiree's Baby
Author: Kate Chopin

Characters: Desiree, Armand & Madame Valmonde

Themes: Race; Armand kicks Desiree out because of her apparent "race"; power over the inferior race
The Goophered Grapevine
Author: Charles

Chesnutt

Characters: John, Julius & Annie & Henry

Themes: Racism and slavery because of the mistreatment of blacks. Henry is sold back and forth just like property or like the grapes
Po' Sandy
Author:

Charles Chesnutt

Characters: John, Julius, Annie, Sandy & Tenie & Aunt Nancy

Themes: love and conjure because Tenie turns Sandy into a tree; the masters were going to separate Sandy from Tenie - still mistreatment of slaves
Sis' Becky's Pickaninny
Author: Charles Chesnutt

Characters: John, Julius, Annie, Becky, Aunt Nancy & Mose

Themes: selling of slavery and the horrification behind the selling of the slaves; luck isn't just from a talisman but can come from anywhere. Dave's
Neckliss
Author: Charles Chesnutt

Characters: John, Julius, Annie, Dave & Dilsey

Themes: the mistreatment of slaves; Dave had to wear a ham around his neck but when he worked more slowly the master took it off but he felt lost

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without it. Supposedly a reference to the inferiors as the sons of Ham who made fun of his father for being drunk
The Dumb Witness
Author: Charles Chesnutt

Characters: Roger Murchison, Malcolm Murchison & Viney

Themes: After Viney was hit in the mouth for saying things she wasn't supposed to, she listened to her master and didn't talk. Ironic because when he wanted/needed her to talk was after he ruined her mouth
Romanticism

The Gothic, stylised story, exaggeration, less fictional and more historical framework, never usually specific about place/time

period
Realism/Naturalism
strong plot line, ordinary characters that suffer from real life problems, relatable characters, gender issues & race issues,

local colorism, nature is not symbolic
Regionalism
a story is set and focused on one specific region (the South)

The American Short Story Cycle
The Conjure Woman - the same characters reappear in different stories but in a set and not necessarily a continuation, they develop generic themes

throughout
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