



SLEDGE.

Final Exam Study Guide

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Fill-in-the-Blank and Other Stuff on the Handout

1. Modern poetry really begins with two (non-modern) poets: **Walt Whitman**, who invented **free** verse, and **Emily Dickinson**, who was innovative in her use of **dashes** and **capitalization** in her poetry. Know the biographical information about these two 19th century icons of American literature. The actual date usually given for the advent of Modernism in American Literature is **early 20th century (1915)**.
2. Three other late 19th century poets we studied are Paul Laurence **Dunbar**, Edwin Arlington **Robinson**, and Edgar Lee **Masters**. Know the two or three poems we read by each poet, as well as biographical information (APPENDIX A). The last two satirized **small town life** in their poems, one in his work **Spoon River Anthology**, which consists of over 200 poems in the form of didactic epitaphs. The other created **Hilbury** Town, a depressing little place that is home of the suicidal characters, **Richard Cory**, and **Luke Havergal**, as well as the alcoholics, **Miniver Cheevy**, and **Mr. Flood**.
3. One result of the awareness of the growing fragmentation of society in the modern age has been the feeling of **isolation** by individuals no longer bound to each other by traditional standards of conduct or by the structure of society. In fact three hallmarks of modern writing are **alienation**, **ambiguity**, and **irony**.
4. The devastation and waste that were the most apparent consequences of **WWI** led to an overriding feeling of inevitable doom and a view of the world as violent, vulgar, and spiritually empty. In his Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech much later, **William Faulkner** talked about these years of wondering, "When will I be **blown up**?" (so long that we have forgotten the important verities).
5. Speaking of Nobel Prize winners, as well as Pulitzer Prize winners – you need to know all of the information given to you in notes about these prizes and recipients. All of the points of comparison and contrast are important (APPENDIX B).
6. Gertrude Stein called the generation after the "**Great War**" (another name for WWI) the "**Lost Generation**."
7. Stein's most famous work is **The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas**, whose titled immortalized the name of her lover. Three expatriates who joined Stein in **Paris** during the 1920s were **Ernest Hemingway**, **William Fitzgerald**, and **Ezra Pound**.
8. Two famous quotes by Stein are: "**A rose is a rose is a rose**" and "**Hemingway, remarks are not literature**." She is known as the Mama of **Dada**. Her poetry is characterized by **repetition of non-sequitur words & themes**.
9. Another turn of the century poet, Stephen **Crane**, wrote short poems with a number of characteristics that you should have in your notes: **contain dialogue**, **generally short**, **free verse**, **deceptively simple**, **fable-like**, **philosophical**, **Biblical language**, **sometimes funny violence**, **1st person**. His experience with the sinking of the **Comodore**, the ship on which he was returning to America after the **Spanish-American War** he covered, led to his writing the short story **The Open Boat and Other Tales**.
10. We also read some short fiction by local color writers, Ambrose Bierce, nicknamed "**Bitter Bierce**"; Bret **Harte**, who wrote about the colorful **West** (part of the country); and Kate **Chopin**, by whom we read a novel **The Awakening** and

two short stories, *Desirée's Baby* and *The Story of an Hour*. Know about her life and other work, as we talked about in class.

11. The poet who has received the most Pulitzer Prizes (4) is **Robert Frost**, who was born in **San Francisco**, even though he is most known for his poems about **New England**. Be familiar with the other poems read from the text and from the handouts: *Mending Wall*, *One Acquainted with the Night*, *Birches*, *Out, Out*, and *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*, *Death of the Hired Man*, as well as the ones on the page for memorization. Know about his life and his writing styles.
12. The Imagist Movement began in **1912** (year), founded mainly by the poet **Ezra Pound**. Other Imagists included **William Carlos Williams**, **Hilda Doolittle (better known as HD)**. The tenets of Imagism are **(1) direct concentration on the "image"**, **(2) use of common speech and always the precise word** **(3) creation of new rhythms**, **(4) freedom in choice of subject** (3 or 4 depending on whether you get your information from the Pound presentation or the handout I gave you).
13. Pound's disdain for Amy Lowell prompted him to label her brand of Imagism **Amygism**.
14. The Harlem Renaissance writers include **Jean Toomer**, **Jessie Fauset**, **Claude McKay**, **Zora Hurston**, **James Weldon Johnson**, **Alain Locke**, **Eric Walrond**, and **Langston Hughes**. It took place during the **1920s** (years). See pp. 717-768 for some poets/poems and information in the text.
15. T. S. Eliot explicated his concept of the objective **correlative** in his famous essay "Tradition and the Individual Talent." What does this term mean? **Art should not be a personal expression. Rather, it should work through universal symbols.**
16. Several forms of fiction include the **short story**, **novel**, and **plays**; the one which Americans have made the most notable contributions is the **short story**, which Poe had earlier defined as a work that **could be read in one sitting** and as one that created **a single effect**.
17. At the turn of the century, **Henry James**, one proponent of **Realism** (defined by him as a "powerful impulse to mirror the unmitigated realities of life"), succeeded in all three forms of fiction. His famous brother was **William James**, famous psychologist/philosophy teacher at Harvard who coined the term "Stream of **Consciousness**", made famous by the Irish writer **James Joyce** and used extensively by the American author, **William Faulkner**, of Oxford, Mississippi.
18. One of the first American writers to express the complexities and uncertainties of modern life was **Sherwood Anderson**, whose stories set in **Winesburg**, Ohio, can be read as individual stories or as a novel. He gave himself credit for mentoring the writers **Faulkner** and **Hemingway** and did in fact introduce them to his famous Scribner's editor **Maxwell Perkins**, who also helped create novels for **Thomas Wolfe** (The guy who wrote on his refrigerator) out of thousands of pages of manuscript.
19. Another member of the lost generation developed a protagonists in his short fiction, **Nick Adams/Robert Jordan**, who represent his concept of heroism as "**grace under pressure**". This most famous member of the Stein group, **Hemingway**, had his life tragically ended by **suicide** in Ketchum, Idaho in **1962**. His three masterpieces are ***The Sun Also Rises*** (1926), ***A Farewell to Arms*** (1934), and ***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** (1940).
20. The author most commonly associated with The Jazz Age is **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, whose wife, **Zelda**, ended up in a sanitarium. He was named after the author of the "**Star Spangled Banner**". His first work, *The Beautiful and the Damned* (1921), was written strictly to make money to impress **Zelda**, who refused to marry him until he made a fortune. His masterpiece is ***The Great Gatsby*** (1924 ish). The novel is narrated by **Nick Caraway**, a neighbor of the

title character. His last novel, incomplete at his death (tragically at 44), *The Love of the Last Tycoon*, is considered by many critics to be his best.

21. The novelist who is associated with Salinas Valley, CA and who is the champion of the poor migrant workers is **John Steinbeck** (whose family name had originally been Grossteinbeck). Writing during the Depression of the '30s, he depicted the hard conditions most effectively in *The Grapes of Wrath*, considered by many to be the best example of the proletarian novel. Several other important works in his canon include *The Pearl*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Moon is Down*.
22. Nobel prize winner **Faulkner** rose above his regional status to become the most important writer that the South has ever produced, winning the Nobel Prize in 1949. He created the mythical county of **Yoknapatawpha** in Mississippi and many of his novels concern the Sartoris family, modeled in part after his own ancestors. The novel usually considered one of his masterpieces is *The Sound and the Fury* (1929), which has four narrators, the first of whom is Benjy, the part of the tale which is told by an "idiot", full of "sound and fury," signifying nothing, an allusion to **McBeth's Soliloquy**.
23. One Southern writer from Milledgeville, GA, influenced strongly by Faulkner, is **Flannery O'Connor**, whose Southern gothic style is reflected in her tragicomic short stories and novels, such as *Wise Blood*. She died tragically in her thirties of lupus.
24. Two other southern women writers are Eudora Welty of Jackson Mississippi, and Katherine Anne Porter.
25. The two major novels of Thomas Wolfe are *You Can't Go Home Again* and *Look Homeward, Angel*. His editor **Maxwell Perkins**, is given credit for paring down his lengthy tomes, which were composed in longhand on top of the refrigerator, the makeshift desk for this tall writer. He died suddenly at 38, leaving an 8 foot high pile of manuscript pages for his editor at Scribner's to sort through, out of which came two novels and a book of short stories.

Name one work by each of the following authors

- **Thomas Pynchon:** *Gravity's Rainbow*
- **Donald Barthelme:** *Dead Father; A Shower of Gold*
- **William Gaddis:** *The Recognitions*
- **Joyce Carol Oates:** *them*
- **John Cheever:** *The Wapsot Chronicle*
- **John Barth:** *The Sot-weed Factor; Lost in the Funhouse*
- **John Fowles:** *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
- **Graham Greene:** *The Power and the Glory*
- **John Irving:** *Hotel New Hampshire; The World According to Garp*
- **Jane Smiley:** *1000 Acres*
- **Carol Shields:** *The Stone Diaries*
- **E. Annie Proulx:** *The Shipping News*
- **Kurt Vonnegut:** *Slaughterhouse Five*
- **William Kennedy:** *Ironweed*
- **E. L. Doctorow:** *Ragtime*
- **J. D. Salinger:** *Catcher in the Rye*

Know who wrote

- **CATCH-22:** Joseph Heller
 - War satire
- **HERZOG:** Saul Bellow
- **THE FIXER:** Bernard Malamud
- **LOLITA:** Vladimir Nabokov
 - SPEAK, MEMORY was an autobiography
 - Also wrote GODS and was a butterfly collector
- **the RABBIT series:** John Updike
 - Not a very post-modern-esque writer
- **INVISIBLE MAN:** Ralph Ellison
- **CATCHER IN THE RYE:** J. D. Salinger
 - Wrote INTRO TO SEYMOUR and PERFECT DAY FOR BANANA-FISH
- **THE NATURAL:** Bernard Malamud
- **IRONWEED:** WILLIAM KENNEDY
 - Part of ALBANY TRILOGY
- **PERSONAE:** EZRA POUND
- **THE GOOD EARTH:** PEARL BUCK
- **SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE:** KURT VONNEGUT
- **A THOUSAND ACRES:** JANE SMILEY
- **THE SOT-WEED FACTOR:** JOHN BARTH
 - Also wrote END OF THE ROAD and FLOATING OPERA
- **RAGTIME:** E. L. Doctorow
- **THE SHIPPING NEWS:** Annie Proulx
- **THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD:** Zora Hurston
- **SHIP OF FOOLS:** Katherine Anne Porter
- **THE STONE DIARIES:** Carol Shields
- **EAST OF EDEN:** John Steinbeck
- **"THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY":** James Thurber
- **THE SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO:** Ernest Hemingway
- **THE GOLDEN APPLES:** Eudora Welty

Literary Terms

- **Foil** - a character in a play who sets off the main character or other characters by comparison.
- **Etymology** - history of a word
- **Blank Verse** - unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter
- **Free Verse** - unrhymed Poetry with lines of varying lengths, and containing no specific metrical pattern. E.g. Walt Whitman
- **Sonnet** - a lyric poem of fourteen lines whose rhyme scheme is fixed
- **Lyric** - a short poem in which the poet expresses an emotion or some life principle
- **Narrative** - a poem which tells a story
- **Allegory** - a story illustrating an idea or a moral principle in which objects take on symbolic meanings.
- **Allusion** - a reference in one literary work to a character or theme found in another literary work.
- **Catalog** - a bunch of prepositional phrases or descriptive phrases, used a lot by Walt Whitman
- **Conceit** - a far-fetched simile or metaphor, a literary conceit occurs when the speaker compares two highly dissimilar things.
 - e.g. In Shakespeare's Richard II:
"I have been studying how I may compare
this prison where I live unto the world"
- **Dialect** - when used in literature, a style of writing that mimics the way things are actually said.
- **Vernacular** - the common language.
- **Elegy** - a lyric poem lamenting death.
- **Epitaph** - text honoring the dead (In greek it means "On the gravestone").
- **Eulogy** - an address of some sort honoring the deceased.
- **Epithet** - in literature, a word or phrase preceding or following a name which serves to describe the character. E.g. In Homer's "The Iliad", Zeus-Loved Achilles.
- **Epigraph** - a brief quotation from another work which appears at the beginning of a literary work. E.g. T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock".
- **Oxymoron** - a combination of contradictory terms "Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!" (Romeo and Juliet)
- **Paradox** - a situation or a statement that seems to contradict itself, but on closer inspection, does not.
- **Antithesis** - the opposite of something.
- **Flashback** - a reference to an event which took place prior to the beginning of a story or play.
- **In Medias Res** - in the middle of things- characteristic of an epic poem, in which the story starts in the middle of action.
- **Stream of Consciousness** - a type of writing in which the focus is on the emotions of the character from his or her point of view
- **Gothic** - a type of literature characterized by:
 - Dark and stormy night
 - Big castle/house
 - First person narrator (usually outsider)
 - Outsiders quest is to discover mystery
 - Supernatural elements
 - Decay (house, old)
 - Sexual elements and frustration
- **Scansion** - the study of poetic meter

- **Meter** - a regular pattern of unstressed and stressed syllables in a line or lines of poetry.
- **Poetic foot** - the basic unit of measure in a line of poetry
- **Inversion** - act of putting words out of order (think of Yoda)
- **Imagism** - movement in the early 20th century that favored precision of imagery
- **Irony** - implied discrepancy between what is said and what is meant
- **Ambiguity** - doubtfulness or uncertainty about the intention or meaning of something
- **Melodrama** - a dramatic form characterized by excessive sentiment, exaggerated emotion, sensational and thrilling action, and an artificially happy ending
- **Farce** - a form of low comedy designed to provoke laughter through highly exaggerated caricatures of people in improbable or silly situations; traits of farce include physical bustle such as slapstick, sexual misunderstandings and mix-ups, and broad verbal humor
- **Motif** - a conspicuous recurring element
- **Archetype** - an original model or pattern from which other later copies are made, especially a character, an action, or situation that seems to represent common patterns of human life; often, archetypes include a symbol, a theme, a setting, or a character that some critics think have a common meaning in an entire culture, or even the entire human race
- **Realism** - fidelity in art and literature to nature or to real life and to accurate representation without idealization
- **Naturalism** - movement that seeks to replicate a believable everyday reality
- **Local Color/Regionalism** - perspective of literature that gained popularity in America after the Civil War; local-color writers depicted nearly every region of the United States, leading realism to their stories by describing customs and manners and re-creating dialects
- **Romanticism** - movement stressing strong emotion as a source of aesthetic experience
- **Transcendentalism** - among Transcendentalists' core beliefs was an ideal spiritual state that 'transcends' the physical and empirical and is only realized through the individual's intuition, rather than through the doctrines of established religions
- **Protagonist** - the hero or central character of a literary work
- **Antagonist** - a person or force which opposes the protagonist in a literary work
- **Onomatopoeia** - a literary device wherein the sound of a word echoes the sound it represents
- **Octave** - the rhyme scheme in the Italian form as typified in the sonnets of Petrarch is abbaabba cdecde; the Petrarchian sonnet has two divisions: the first is of eight lines (the octave), and the second is of six lines (the sestet)
- **Sestet** - the rhyme scheme in the Italian form as typified in the sonnets of Petrarch is abbaabba cdecde; the Petrarchian sonnet has two divisions: the first is of eight lines (the octave), and the second is of six lines (the sestet)
- **Parallelism** - a repetition of _____
- **Rhetoric** - art or technique of persuasion through the use of spoken and written language
- **Point of view** - the related experience of the narrator
- **Rhythm** - recurrences of stressed and unstressed syllables at equal intervals, similar to meter. However, though two lines may be of the same meter, the rhythms of the lines may be different
- **Rhyme** - in poetry, a pattern of repeated sounds
- **Satire** - a piece of literature designed to ridicule the subject of the work
- **Symbolism** - a device in literature where an object represents an idea
- **Symbolist movement** - symbolists believed that art should aim to capture more absolute truths which could only be accessed by indirect methods; thus, they wrote in a highly metaphorical and suggestive manner, endowing particular images or objects with symbolic meaning; the Symbolist manifesto ('Le Symbolisme', Le Figaro, 18 Sept 1886) was published in 1886 by Jean Moréas
- **Aestheticism** - belief that arts should provide refined sensuous pleasure, rather than convey moral or sentimental messages; evolution of the symbolist movement
- **Parts of a plot** - exposition; rising action; climax; falling action; denouement

- **Types of drama** - realistic, expressionistic, absurdist
- **Kinds of rhyme** - end rhyme, internal rhyme, slant rhyme (imperfect rhyme that refers to words at the ends of lines of poetry that almost—but don't quite—rhyme; may also refer to words that look as if they rhyme)
- **Types of imagery** - olfactory, gustatory, tactile, thermal, kinetic, kinesthetic, auditory, visual
- **Didactic** - intended to instruct, especially with regard to morals
- **Analogy** - a comparison to show similarities between two things that are otherwise dissimilar. Writers often use an analogy to explain something unfamiliar by comparing it to something familiar.
- **Metaphor** - a figure of speech that compares or equates two seemingly unlike things. In contrast to a simile, a metaphor implies the comparison instead of stating it directly.
- **Simile** - a comparison using like or as
- **Alliteration** - the repetition of similar sounds, most often consonant sounds, at the beginnings of words.
- **Assonance** - the repetition of similar vowel sounds, especially in a line of poetry
- **Consonance** - the repetition of similar consonant sounds typically within or at the ends of words
- **Aphorism** - a short, pointed statement that expresses a wise or clever observation about human experience
- **Epigram** - a short, witty poem
- **Personification** - a figure of speech in which an animal, an object, a force of nature, or an idea is given human characteristics
- **Versimilitude** - having the appearance of truth; realism.
- **Simulacra** - a slight, unreal, or superficial likeness or semblance OR an effigy, image, or representation
- **Anaphora** - the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive phrases, clauses or lines.
- **Epistrophe** - the repetition of the same word or words at the end of successive phrases, clauses or sentences
- **Metonymy** - the use of one word to stand for a related term
- **Synecdoche** - the use of a part of something to stand for the whole thing
- **Solecism** - a traditional term for the violation of good grammar and manners
- **Spoonerism** - slip of the tongue in which a speaker transposes the letters of words. Pee little thrigs is a spoonerism for three little pigs.
- **Apollonian** - the Apollonian impulse is to create a rational, harmonious world.
- **Dionysian** - the Dionysian impulse is to express the irrational forces of personality
- **Deus ex machine** - an unexpected, artificial, or improbable character, device, or event introduced suddenly in a work of fiction or drama to resolve a situation or untangle a plot
- **Bildungsroman** - novel that centers on the period in which a young person grows up
- **Doppelganger** - a literary technique by which a character is duplicated or divided into two distinct, usually opposite personalities.
- **Litotes** - understatement, for intensification, by denying the contrary of the thing being affirmed (example: War is not healthy for children and other living things)
- **Hyperbole** - a figure of speech that uses exaggeration to express strong emotion, to make a point, or to evoke humor
- **Understatement** - language that makes something seem less important than it really

Faulkner's Acceptance Speech

I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal because he will endure: that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking. I refuse to accept this. I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail.

Appendix A

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

- Mentored by William Dean Howells (Editor of *Atlantic Monthly*)
- President of student body and was editor of school paper
- Has 2 styles of writing
 - Formal
 - Dialectic
- *Douglass*
 - Sonnet
 - Not an elegy because poem does not commemorate death
 - Octave states problems of black lives
 - Sestet states what Douglass could do to help African-Americans
 - Extended metaphor: storm, boat, ship
- *We Wear the Mask*
 - Iambic tetrameter
 - Theme: we create a second self for others to see
- *Life's Tragedy*
 - Iambic pentameter
 - Didactic
 - We notice what we don't have instead of what we do have
- Dunbar published 2 collections of poems
 - *Oak and Ivy*
 - *Major and Minor*

Edwin Arlington Robinson

- Born in Gardner, Maine
- Championed by Teddy Roosevelt
- Received sinecure (government job given as gift) from Roosevelt
- Spent a couple of years at Harvard
- Strong interest in medieval topics
- Created a fictional town

Some Examples of Fictional Towns	
Work/Author	Town
Our Town	Grover's Corner
Twain	St. Petersburg
Inherit the Wind	Hillburrough
Robinson	Hilbury Town

Some Examples of Fictional Towns	
Sinclair Lewis	Gopher Prairie
Masters	Spoon River

- *Richard Cory*
 - Throwback because there is a rhyming scheme
 - Ironic because cory has everything but still commits suicide
 - Ambiguity: why does he kill himself?
 - Alienation: Cory is alienated
 - Motif: Word choice shows royalty; king is isolated
- *Miniver Cheevy*
 - Title is name of protagonist
 - Character driven poem
 - Realism vs. Idealism
 - Miniver is an alcoholic
 - Wants money and gold
 - Miniver is a blame shifter
- *Luke Havergal*
 - Alienated person
 - Havergal is protagonist
 - Ambiguity: who is the speaker?

Edgar Lee Masters

- Contemporary of Edward A. Robinson
- Writes in Free-verse while debunking small town myth
- *Lucinda Matlock*
 - Didactic ending
 - Younger generation is whiny
 - At first, poem sounds ideal
 - She loses 8 of 12 children before she reaches 60
- *George Gray*
 - Extended metaphor
 - "Life without meaning... is the boat longing for the sea and yet afraid"
- *Fiddler Jones*
 - Had a good time in life

William Faulkner

- Born in New Albany, Mississippi in 1897
- Moved to Oxford, Mississippi when he was 5
 - House called Rowan Oak
 - Oxford was known as Jefferson in his stories
 - Real county was Lafayette => Yoknapatawpha
- Dropped out of school in 10th grade
- Wanted to join war effort
 - Royal Canadian Air Force
 - Pretended to be shot down
- Estelle Oldham: high school sweetheart
 - She was already married
 - Her husband died and she married him
 - She made his life hell
 - Faulkner began to drink heavily
- Moved to NY for a while to get away from Estelle
- Had a couple of daughters
- Won 2 Pulitzers
 - *Town*
 - *The Revers*
- National Book Award
- 1949 Nobel Prize

Ernest Hemingway

- Born in 1899 in Oakland, KS
- Mother was a musician; father was a doctor
- Bad speller
- Graduated Oakpark High School
- Journalism: demand for journalists after the gilded age
- 1918: wanted to help with war
 - Italian ambulance corp.
 - Injured and hospitalized
 - Falls in love with a nurse called Agnis
- Wrote *In Another Country* about the experience
 - Involves experimental therapy that represents hope
 - However, Lost Generation equipment does not work
- Worked at the *Toronto Star* after war
- Married 4 times
- Bought ranch house in Ketcham, Idaho

Appendix B

- Nobel is a world-wide prize while Pulitzer is only American
- Only 12 American writers have won the Nobel
- Joseph Pulitzer
 - Born in 1847 in Hungary to a Jewish family who spoke Yiddish
 - He immigrated to America during the Civil War and served in the Union army
 - 1864: he was mustered out because of bad eyesight
 - He settled in St. Louis and became a newspaper reporter
 - Saved his money and bought the newspaper: St. Louis Post-Dispatch
 - Moved to New York and bought The New York World
 - 1890: over 1 million copies a day
 - When he died, he left money for Columbia to found a school of journalism
 - 1880: elected to Congress
 - 1890: went completely blind and retired to his yacht
 - The Prize
 - Handed out by Columbia University's School of Journalism
 - Given out in the Spring
 - 3 art awards
 - 1 music award
 - 6 field of letters awards
 - Belles lettres: literature
 - Fiction, poetry, plays, American history, American biography, general non-fiction, (1960s: Truman Capote created a new category with the book *In Cold Blood*) journalistic novel
 - The prize is given for the book, not the person
 - There are some years when they did not give the award
 - 1901
 - Worth a couple of thousand dollars
 - Frost holds the record for most poetry Pulitzers
- Alfred Nobel
 - Born in Sweden in 1833
 - Scientist that invented dynamite
 - The Prize
 - Began in 1901
 - Peace prize given in Oslo, Norway
 - Others given in Stockholm, Sweden
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Medicine/Physiology
 - Literature
 - Economics: added in 1969
 - Worth around a million dollars
 - Given every year on the anniversary of Nobel's death (early December)
 - 1914, 1917: not given due to World War
- Winners
 - 1930: Sinclair Lewis
 - Wrote almost all satirical pieces
 - Main Street (satire against myth of small town)
 - Elmer Gantry (satire against evangelical ministers)
 - Arrowsmith (satire against research doctors)
 - Babbitt (satire against businessmen)
 - Nicknamed "Red" due to his red hair
 - Physically challenged in the aspects of looks
 - Gangly

- Tall
- Acne
- 1936: Eugene O'Neill
 - Holds record for number of Pulitzers (plays)
 - A Long Days Journey into Night
 - Most autobiographical of plays
 - Had tragic life
 - Father was alcoholic
 - Mother had cocaine addiction
 - Born and died in a hotel
 - Chelsea Hotel
 - Desire Under the Elms
 - Mourning Becomes Electra
 - Anachristie
 - Most of his plays were about dysfunctional families
- 1938: Pearl S. Buck
 - First American woman to win the prize
 - Had severely retarded daughter
 - East Wind, West Wind
 - Dragon Seed
- 1948: T. S. Elliot
 - The Love Song of J. Alfred Proufrock
 - The Wasteland (4 of 5 sections, very long poem)
 - Alienation and isolation theme
 - "April is the cruelest month" -first line
 - Old Possums Book of Practical Cats
 - Basis for all other children's books
- 1949: William Faulkner
 - Short; raging alcoholic
 - Lived in Oxford, Mississippi
 - Ole Miss takes care of his house: "Rowan Oak"
 - Married his high school sweetheart
 - Had terrible marriage
 - The Sound and the Fury
 - The famous fictional county of Mississippi
 - Yoknapatawpha = Lafayette county in real life
 - Fictional city
 - Jefferson = Oxford in real life
 - Absalom, Absalom
 - The Reavers
 - Go Down Moses
 - As I Lay Dying
 - Light in August
 - Joe Christmas: main character who suffers continuous tragedies
- 1954: Ernest Hemmingway
 - Big 3 books
 - For Whom the Bell Tolls
 - Farewell to Arms
 - The Sun Also Rises
 - Had adventuresome life
 - Deep sea fishing
 - Kilimanjaro
 - Married 4 times
 - Lots of suicides in his life
 - Father, 2 sons, himself, granddaughter
 - Most famous character in short fiction is called Nick Adams
 - "Grace under pressure": Hemmingway's definition of heroism

- 1960: John Steinbeck
 - Mainly associated with Selinas Valley, California
 - Grapes of Wrath
 - The Pearl
 - Mice and Men
 - Lot of his books deal with migrant workers
 - Shows abuses of the underclass
- 1976: Saul Bellow
 - Born in Canada with a Jewish background
 - Later settled in Chicago and taught at the university of Chicago
 - Taught with Allen Bloom
 - Wrote about discontented modern man
 - Big city life and how it sucks the soul out of people
- 1978: Issac B. Singer
 - From Poland
 - Came to America before WWII
 - His writing
 - Wrote mostly short fiction
 - Mostly written in Yiddish
 - Mostly set in Poland
 - Not much American influences in writing
- 1980: Czeslaw Milosz
 - Not really considered American
- 1987: Joseph Brodsky
 - From Russia
 - Poet
 - Work was written in Russian
- 1993: Toni Morrison
 - First African American to win the prize
 - The Bluest Eye
 - Song of Solomon
 - Sue, the Beloved
 - Writes in magic realism sense (surreal)