English III Name:

Regents Review DUE:

This handout is to help you continue to prepare for the Part 4-Critical Lens essay on the Regents.

AS A REMINDER: **Part 4 (Question 28) requires you to Write a critical essay in which you:**

* discuss ***two*** works of literature you have read from the particular perspective of the statement that is provided for you in the **Critical Lens**,
* provide a valid interpretation of the statement,
* agree ***or*** disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it, and
* support your opinion in a well written essay using specific references to appropriate literary elements from the two works.

**Directions: Answer the questions based on the critical lens statements on the third page of this handout.**

1. **Browse through the quotations on the back; what are some of the COMMON WORDS from each of these quotations:**
2. **Based on the quotations, list some of the COMMON IDEAS you notice in each of these quotations:**
3. **Choose FIVE Critical Lens statements, and interpret them below – be sure to write the number of the critical lens statement you are interpreting.**

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| --- | --- |
| **#** | **Interpretation** |
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1. **Choose One of the Critical Lens Statements above and complete the following:**

**# of Critical Lens\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Titles, authors, and genres of TWO works of literature you would use for this critical lens** | **1.** | **2.** |
| **Explain in a general way how you would connect the literature to your interpretation of the critical lens:** |  |  |
| **Explain how one literary element can support your interpretation of the critical lens:** |  |  |
| **Explain how a second literary element can connect to your interpretation of the critical lens:** |  |  |

1. **Choose a SECOND Critical Lens Statement from question 3 which you have interpreted, and complete the following:**

**# of Critical Lens\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Titles, authors, and genres of TWO works of literature you would use for this critical lens** | **1.** | **2.** |
| **Explain in a general way how you would connect the literature to your interpretation of the critical lens:** |  |  |
| **Explain how one literary element can support your interpretation of the critical lens:** |  |  |
| **Explain how a second literary element can connect to your interpretation of the critical lens:** |  |  |

**Critical Lens:**

1. “Literature is one of a society’s instruments of self-awareness.” -Italo Calvino
2. “All novels are about certain minorities; the individual is a minority.” -Ralph Ellison
3. “We have only one life, but the ability to desire a thousand lives. Fiction helps us live a thousand lives. Fiction completes us.” -Mario Vargas Llosa
4. “One function of serious literature is to deal with the moral core of a given society.” -Ralph Ellison
5. “The worth of a literary work is to be measured by what you can carry away from it.” -James Bryce
6. “Good literature is writing that explores the imperfections in the world and kick the readers in the pants, shakes them out of their complacency about a world that needs fixing.” -James Bryce
7. “A book should serve as the axe for the frozen sea within us.” -Franz Kafka
8. “There is no frigate like a book / To take us to lands far away.” -Emily Dickinson
9. “A great literary work should leave you with many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end.” -William Styron
10. “All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened. After you’re finished reading one, you will feel that all that happened to you: the good and the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse and sorrow, the people and the places and how the weather was.” -Ernest Hemingway
11. “The task of a writer is by the power of the written word, to make you hear, to make you feel – it is, before all, to make you see.” -Joseph Conrad
12. “The best literature is about the old universal truths, such as love, honor, pride, compassion, and sacrifice.” -Faulkner (adapted)
13. “The purpose of literature is to hold…the mirror up to nature and to show… the very age and body of the time (its) form and pressure.” -William Shakespeare
14. “Journalism allows its readers to witness history; fiction gives its readers an opportunity to live it.” -John Hersey
15. “It seems that the analysis of character is the highest human entertainment. And literature does it, unlike gossip, without mentioning real names.” -Isaac Singer
16. “Literature is not the assertion of truth, but the making of truth more fully real to us.” -T.S. Eliot
17. “Literature transmits experience from generation to generation. In this way, it becomes a living memory of a nation.” -Alexander Solzhenitsyn
18. “Literature is the one place in any society where, within the secrecy of our own heads, we can hear voices talking about everything, in every possible way.” - Ahmed Salman Rushdie
19. “A lie hides the truth. Literature tries to find it.” -Paula Fox
20. “A sole substitute for an experience which we ourselves have no lived through is art and literature.” -Alexander Solzhenitsyn
21. “Literature is a kind of intellectual light which, like the light of the sun, may sometimes enable us to see what we do not like.” -Samuel Johnson