



High School | 2025-26

LITERARY CRITICISM

Practice Packet 1



Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*

William Shakespeare's *Shakespeare's Sonnets & Poems*

Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*



LIT CRIT PRACTICE PACKET 1

2025-2026

Written by
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Luke Hardt, Lisa Holmes, and Joshua Prybylski

Lit Crit Practice Packets are written by **Jennifer Bussey** and her team of writers. Bussey is a freelance educational writer specializing in literature with almost 25 years' experience and has authored Hexco's Lit Crit products since 1999. She has a B.A. in English Literature and an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her team consists of **Luke Hardt, Lisa Holmes, and Joshua Prybylski**. Hardt is a retired Professor of Theater with over 30 years' experience teaching at the college level, including every aspect of drama from understanding plays to performing them. He has directed more than 85 plays in his career. Holmes is an educational writer with over 20 years' experience as a high school English teacher, exploring texts across genres and literary periods with numerous students. In addition, she is an experienced writer of book abstracts, lessons, and tests. Przybylski has over 10 years' experience as a teacher--both in person and online--and as a writer and researcher. His experience with high school students spans an impressive range of abilities, interests, and cultural backgrounds, and his expert grasp of literature make him uniquely skilled in opening up literary texts to students.

We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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UIL LIT CRIT PRACTICE PACKET 1

2025-2026



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2025-26 Reading List

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Shakespeare' Sonnets & Poems* by William Shakespeare
- *The Iceman Cometh* by Eugene O'Neill

For official UIL Constitution and Contest Rules for LitCrit, please review Section 940 on the document under "Contest Rules" at:
<http://www.uil texas.org/academics/literary-criticism>

Contestant Number _____

Multiple Choice Score (max 100) _____

Final Essay Rank _____ of _____

Rubric for the Essay

The Essays are read and ranked only when a tie occurs between students in the first six places, however, failure to write an essay is grounds for disqualification. The Essay portion of the test shall be ranked by three judges who are NOT coaches of the tied contestants. The essays of the tied students are compared only to each. For example, if a tie exists between the top two students and another tie exists for the students vying for 3rd-5th place, the students for the top two places are compared with each other, then the students tied for 3rd-5th place are compared to each other. The Final Essay Rank will read as **1 of 2** or **3 of 3**, for example.

Essay Judging Criteria

How well did the student follow the instructions in Part IV?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Comments
Judge 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Did the student identify the literary devices used and cite examples from the passage?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Comments
Judge 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Did the student express significant literary insight, identify the point of view, and tone?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Comments
Judge 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Did the essay flow smoothly between transitions, was it well written?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Comments
Judge 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Did the student use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Comments
Judge 1	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 2	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Judge 3	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Literary Criticism Packet 1

Practice Test B

- **Part I. Knowledge of Literary Terms and of Literary History** 30 items (1 pt each)
1. Which of the following consonant sounds is not voiced in English?
A. b
B. d
C. p
D. g
E. z
 2. The bookseller's abbreviation "T.e.g." means which of the following?
A. third edition, general printing
B. tied, edged, and gauged
C. third edition gazette
D. top edges gilt
E. total earnings gained
 3. The term "synchoreisis" means which of the following?
A. the rhetorical device of pairing two opposite terms for effect
B. the rhetorical strategy of getting your opponent to agree to a seemingly unrelated point
C. the rhetorical strategy of eliciting the audience's sympathy
D. the rhetorical strategy of seeming to agree with one's opponent
E. the rhetorical device of deliberate understatement
 4. Conrad Richter wrote which of the following works, winner of the 1951 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction?
A. *The Town*
B. *The Caine Mutiny*
C. *The Old Man and The Sea*
D. *A Fable*
E. *Andersonville*
 5. The literal meaning of the Greek term symposium is which of the following?
A. debating together
B. eating together
C. drinking together
D. standing together
E. reasoning together
 6. English tragedy over the seventeenth century was characterized by a shift from ____ to ____.
A. shock and violence; spiritual conflict
B. love and honor; spiritual conflict
C. shock and violence; love and honor
D. love and honor; shock and violence
E. spiritual conflict; shock and violence
 7. Which of the following authors coined the term suspension of disbelief?
A. Wordsworth
B. Southey
C. Coleridge
D. Peacock
E. Emerson
 8. A foot consisting of three unstressed syllables is known as a(n) ____.
A. tribrach
B. dactyl
C. anapest
D. amphibrach
E. amphimacer
 9. The Surrealist movement got its start in which country?
A. Spain
B. Italy
C. the U.S.
D. France
E. Germany

Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.

20

Next to nothing for use,
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say where
The harvest shall stop?

56. The meter of this poem is ____ .

- A. iambic tetrameter
- B. trochaic hexameter
- C. inconsistent
- D. trochaic tetrameter
- E. iambic hexameter

57. Each quatrain in this poem follows which of the following rhyme schemes?

- A. abab
- B. abba
- C. slant rhyme
- D. the second and fourth lines rhyme
- E. the first and third lines rhyme

58. The theme of this poem is primarily one of ____ .

- A. contentment
- B. futility
- C. natural beauty
- D. persistence
- E. questioning

59. The raking of leaves in this poem is most likely which of the following literary devices?

- A. metaphor
- B. metonymy
- C. synecdoche
- D. simile
- E. apostrophe

60. This poem makes frequent use of which of the following literary devices?

- A. alliteration
- B. onomatopoeia
- C. hyperbole
- D. anastrophe
- E. repetition

"The Cliff-Top Monastery"

by A.B. Jackson

the voyage of st. brendan

A cry of "Land!" A cliff face, iron ore red,
a monastery perched on top, gold-gilded.
The crew cast anchor, doggy-swam ashore
and surfed the scree slopes in buoyant uproar.

The summit gained, they gasped: seven monks 5
advanced in welcome, cooing like rock doves.
The ground was fire-grate ash, entirely barren;
reading looks, the eldest spoke to Brendan:

"We drink the dew. Our food arrives by raven,
one loaf one fish, our drop, our daily ration, 10
the bird so clockwork and plain bountiful.
Rest here, brothers. Come, observe our ritual."

The monks performed a wordless parable:
seven stones in a fruit picker's pail,
bird-skin robes. Cried Brendan: "Holy fathers, 15
bless you — these are quality palavers."

The crew half-slept, that night, in golden cells,
their dreams hatchlings, their nerves eggshells.
Before the raven-dawn they fled in haste,
fearing their hosts' hunger, and their faith. 20

61. The rhyme scheme of each stanza is ____.

- A. aabb
- B. slant rhyme, roughly abab
- C. abab
- D. slant rhyme, roughly aabb
- E. abca

Shakespeare's Sonnets & Poems
by William Shakespeare

**Sonnet 27: Weary with toil,
I haste me to my bed**

Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;
But then begins a journey in my head,
To work my mind, when body's work's expired:
For then my thoughts, from far where I abide,
Intend a zealous pilgrimage to thee,
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,
Looking on darkness which the blind do see:
Save that my soul's imaginary sight
Presents thy shadow to my sightless view,
Which, like a jewel hung in ghastly night,
Makes black night beauteous and her old face new.

Lo! Thus, by day my limbs, by night my mind,
For thee and for myself no quiet find.

40. Shakespeare most clearly compares his feelings to which of the following?
- A. illness
 - B. work
 - C. travel
 - D. madness
 - E. sleep
41. Which of the following concepts is personified in this poem?
- A. work
 - B. travel
 - C. night
 - D. love
 - E. sleep
42. Shakespeare's spelling of the word "travel" in this poem could also be interpreted as "travail," a word which means ____.
- A. trial
 - B. achievement
 - C. loneliness
 - D. work
 - E. vision

**Sonnet 80: O, how I faint
when I of you do write**

O, how I faint when I of you do write,
Knowing a better spirit doth use your name,
And in the praise thereof spends all his might,
To make me tongue-tied speaking of your fame.
But since your worth, wide as the ocean is, 5
The humble as the proudest sail doth bear,
My saucy bark, inferior far to his,
On your broad main doth willfully appear.
Your shallowest help will hold me up afloat
Whilst he upon your soundless deep doth ride, 10
Or, being wracked, I am a worthless boat,
He of tall building and of goodly pride.
Then, if he thrive and I be cast away,
The worst was this: my love was my decay.

43. The tone of this poem could best be described as ____.
- A. jealous
 - B. resigned
 - C. desperate
 - D. humble
 - E. loving
44. The main comparison used in this poem is a(n) ____.
- A. metaphor
 - B. simile
 - C. synecdoche
 - D. metonymy
 - E. allusion
45. Which line in this poem does not feature anastrophe?
- A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. 8
 - E. 9