

**American Literature and Composition:
Study Guide for Semester 2 Final
Mr. Rogers, 2008**

Exam Format

The exam will count as 20% of your semester grade and will consist of 45 multiple choice questions and one essay question.

Exam Purpose and Content

The multiple choice questions will be an opportunity to show what you have learned this semester. They will focus in on our Nature unit and our *Black Boy* unit. Expect questions about major authors, poets, historical events, philosophical movements, and literary devices/terms.

The essay question will be about *The Things They Carried*. I have chosen three statements made by critics, philosophers, etc. You will be required to write a standard five-paragraph essay showing how **one** of these statements is true when we consider it in light of the novel. Your essay should exhibit an understanding of the five paragraph essay structure with well-developed topic and clincher sentences. It should contain frequent references to events, characters, and themes in the novel. Your essay should exhibit varied sentence structure, proper grammar, and correct spelling/punctuation. Most importantly, your essay should exhibit that you read, understood, and reflected upon Tim O'Brien's writing.

How to Study

- For the multiple choice: Return to all handouts, assignments, and readings. Review any notes you took on Native American, Romantic, and Transcendentalist writers. Sum up the importance of each writer's work in one sentence. Familiarize yourself with each writer's most famous works. Review notes, assignments, and handouts from *Black Boy*.
- Pay attention to the different types of poetic devices: simile, metaphor, personification, catalogs/litanies, meter, verse, etc. What writers are known for using certain structures or meditating upon certain themes?
- For the essay question: Review all handouts, notes, assignments, etc. that focused around themes and symbols in *The Things They Carried*. Make a list of all chapters and take particular note of which ones "cluster" together. Understand the characteristics of metafiction and how they are revealed in this piece.

Also

- Get a good night's sleep
- Eat a healthy breakfast and lunch