

## Gothic, Romantic, and Transcendental Exam

Directions: I will select five out of the following ten topics/questions. For each, write a two to three chunk paragraph. Make sure that your topic sentence clearly relates to or answers the topic/question; then, use your chunks to develop and support your topic sentence. This will be open-book but not open note.

1. What is the thematic connection between the three works that we studied by Edgar Allen Poe—"The Raven," "Annabel Lee," and "Fall of the House of Usher"?
2. Discuss the effects of two of the following poetic effects on the meaning of "The Raven"—sonic repetition, simple repetition, alliteration, symbolism, or allusion. Remember the central theme of the poem (i.e. the same as #1 on this exam).
3. Select two aphorisms from Emerson's "Self-Reliance" and explain how they contribute to the sermon-like, oratorical style of the selection.
4. Explain how Emerson's use of paradox in "Brahma" illustrates his Transcendental philosophy. Consider his views on the Over-Soul and the oneness of all things.
5. Explain what Thoreau means by the following quote: "It makes but little difference whether you are committed to a farm or the county jail" (255). How does this support his views on enslavement to the material world?
6. How does Hawthorne's "The Minister's Black Veil" represent his Puritan world-view and his sense of familial guilt? Consider the black veil as a symbol.
7. Discuss the effect of the dash in Dickinson's poetry. How does it fit her poetry and her personal life?
8. Discuss Transcendentalism in Whitman's "Song of Myself" from *Leaves of Grass*.
9. Discuss Whitman's celebration of the common man in "Song of Myself." How does he celebrate democracy and what we would call "blue collar" work?
10. What is symbolic about Lincoln's coffin in "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed?" Why is its symbolic value such an important central theme in this post-Civil War poem?

Finally: it may help you to write a brief (three to eight words per spot) outline for each answer to review at the beginning of class. I advise using this outline model:

- Topic/Topic Sentence of PP
- a. CD/quote for chunk 1
    - i. CM
    - ii. CM
  - b. CD/quote for chunk 2
    - i. CM
    - ii. CM
  - c. CD/quote for chunk 3 (optional)
    - i. CM
    - ii. CM
- Concluding Sentence