

國立中央大學八十三學年度研究所碩士班入學試題卷

系所別： 英美語文研究所

組

科目： 英美文學史

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Part I (50%: 5 points each): Choose ten (10) of the following, identify them as fully as possible, and comment on their significance.

參考用

1. Houyhnhn
2. Captain Vere
3. Frankenstein
4. Underth
5. Satpen's Hundred
6. Pandemonium
7. This is the wandering wood, this errours den
8. I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you--Nobody--Too?
9. The death, then, of a beautiful woman is, unquestionably, the most poetical topic in the world. . . .
10. Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which is my sin, though it were done before?
11. April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
12. Thanks to the human heart by which we live,
Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,
To me the meanest flower that blows can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.
13. Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;
Selves--goes itself; myself it speaks and spells,
Crying What I do is me: for that I came.
14. . . . and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he
could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and
yes I said yes I will Yes.
15. O chestnut tree, great-rooted blossomer,
Are you the leaf, the blossom, or the bole?
O body swayed to music, O brightening glance,
How can we know the dancer from the dance?

Part II (50%): Choose one of the following three topics and write a coherent essay.

1. Consider Thoreau as Emerson's literary descendant. Does Thoreau replicate, apply, extend, or contradict Emerson's vision of transcendentalism? Does he, for example, replace Emerson's "subjective idealism" with "naturalism," or Emerson's belief in solitary thought with material activity? Is Thoreau closer to Emerson or to Emerson's antagonists than he thinks? Do you find Thoreau's views more or less attractive or plausible than Emerson's? Be sure to define transcendentalism. Use specific details to justify each point you make.
2. Read the opening stanza of Tennyson's "Tears, Idle Tears" closely:

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,
Tears from the depth of some divine despair
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,
In looking on the happy autumn-fields,
And thinking of the days that are no more.

A critic comments on this stanza: "These tears begin, it appears, in the weeping of some god in a state of despair. . . . The singer's sense of loss is also a despairing sense of loss for the god who must remain transcendence without immanence and cannot, as I have said, encompass the times and spaces of his or her creation. . . . The god of this poem is a divinity who cannot save his or her creation or redeem it from guilt and death. Far from being the way to a resurrection in the other world, death now leads nowhere and cannot be dialectically recuperated." Read this stanza afresh, indicating whether you agree or disagree with this critic. If you disagree, point out where this critic's reading raises problems. In your reading, you might want to discuss the syntactical ambiguity in this stanza.

3. Compare the following two versions of Shakespeare's Sonnet 138. Discuss how the presence of one might affect your understanding and interpretation of the other. (You don't have to discuss the whole sonnet.)

(1)

When my Love swears that she is made of truth,
I do believe her (though I know she lies)
That she might thinke me som untutor'd youth,
Unskillful in the worlds false forgedes.
Thus vainly thinking that she thinkes me young,
Although I know my yeares be past the best:
I smiling, credit her false speaking tongue,
Outfacing faults in love, with loves ill rest.
But wherefore sayes my love that she is young?
And wherefore say not I, that I am old?
O, Loves best habit's in a soothing tongue,
And age in love, loves not to have yeares told.
Therefore I'le lye with Love, and love with me,
Since that our faultes in love thus smother'd be.

(2)

When my love swears that she is made of truth,
I do beleeve her though I know she lyes,
That she might thinke me some untuterd youth,
Unlearned in the worlds false subtilties.
Thus vainely thinking that she thinkes me young,
Although she knowes my days are past the best,
Simply I credit her false speaking tongue,
On both sides thus is simple truth suppress:
But wherefore sayes she not she is unjust?
And wherefore say not I that I am old?
O loves best habit is in seeming trust,
And age in love, loves not t'have yeares told.
Therefore I lye with her, and she with me,
And in our faults by lyes we flattered be.

