

## LITERATURE

### *Selected Literature of the World War II Era*

- I. CRITICAL READING 15%
  - A. Purpose and Main Idea
  - B. Structure
  - C. Restatement of Information
  - D. Genres and their Characteristics
  - E. Language and Tone
  - F. Grammar and Syntax
  - G. Vocabulary in Context
  - H. Diction
  
- II. THEME—WORLD WAR II 5%
  - A. Historical Context of World War II
  - B. Theaters of War
  - C. Women and War
  - D. World War II and Literature
  
- III. AUTHOR—ANNA SEGHERS 15%
  - A. Early Years
  - B. Influences
  - C. Style
  - D. Major Themes and Major Works
  - E. Exile
  - F. Return to East Germany
  - G. Literature and Politics
  - H. Reception of Seghers's Late Work
  
- IV. *TRANSIT* 45%
  - A. Genesis of the Novel and Biographical Context
  - B. Setting
  - C. Narrative Perspective and Plot Structure
  - D. Style and Tone
  - E. Major Characters
    - 1. Unnamed Narrator (Alias Seidler, Alias Weidel)
    - 2. Marie
    - 3. Weidel
    - 4. The Doctor
    - 5. Heinz

- 6. The Binnet Boy
- 7. Paul
- 8. Achselroth
- F. Themes
  - 1. Vichy France in *Transit*
  - 2. Exile, Refugees, and the Fate of Civilians in Times of War
  - 3. Boredom, Ennui
  - 4. Loyalty vs. Betrayal (Being “Left in the Lurch”)
  - 5. Bureaucracy, Absurdity
  - 6. Religion
  - 7. Motifs from Myths and Fairy Tales
  - 8. Storytelling
- G. Reception

V. SHORTER PROSE WORKS 10%

- A. Rebecca West, “A Day in Town”
  - 1. Introduction to Rebecca West
  - 2. SELECTED WORK: “A DAY IN TOWN” BY REBECCA WEST
    - a. Interpretation
- B. Virginia Woolf, “Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid”
  - 1. Introduction to Virginia Woolf
  - 2. SELECTED WORK: “THOUGHTS ON PEACE IN AN AIR RAID” BY VIRGINIA WOOLF
    - a. Interpretation

VI. POETRY 10%

- A. W. H. Auden, “September 1, 1939”
  - 1. Introduction to W. H. Auden
  - 2. SELECTED WORK: “SEPTEMBER 1, 1939” BY W. H. AUDEN
    - a. Interpretation
    - b. Form
- B. Keith Douglas: “Desert Flowers,” “Vergissmeinnicht,” and “How to Kill”
  - 1. Introduction to Keith Douglas
  - 2. SELECTED WORK: “DESERT FLOWERS” BY KEITH DOUGLAS
    - a. Interpretation
    - b. Form
  - 3. SELECTED WORK: “VERGISSMEINNICHT” BY KEITH DOUGLAS
    - a. Interpretation
    - b. Form
  - 4. SELECTED WORK: “HOW TO KILL” BY KEITH DOUGLAS

- a. Interpretation
- b. Form

C. Donald Bain, “War Poet”

- 1. Introduction to Donald Bain
- 2. SELECTED WORK: “WAR POET” BY DONALD BAIN
  - a. Interpretation
  - b. Form