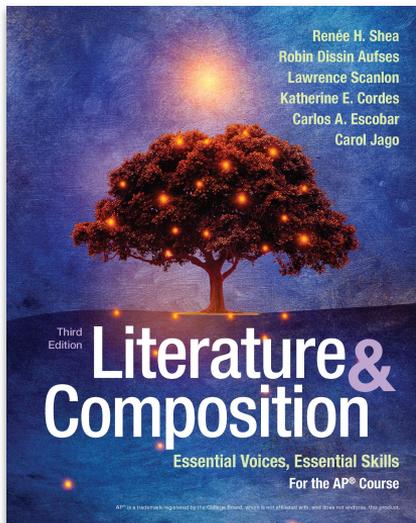


Welcome to the BFW AP[®] Literature Professional Learning Community



Presented by the *Literature & Composition*, 3rd Edition Team:
Renee Shea, Robin Aufses, Lawrence Scanlon, Kate Cordes, Carlos Escobar





BFW AP[®] Literature

Professional Learning Community



Trifles by Susan Glaspell

Presented by Robin Aufses

Comments about Passing ...

1. Why do **you** think Nella Larsen's *Passing* is having a moment at this point in time?
2. Pair another passage from *Passing* with a clip from the film in a way that promotes close reading. (You might look at this [clip](#) with Tessa Thompson reading a passage while the film plays.)
3. How might you use the cover image for *Passing* (*Lit & Comp* 3e, p. 537 or see below) to encourage critical reading of and thinking about the novel?
4. Whatever you suggest to promote/encourage bringing the novel to your students (either for the exam or beyond)





Responses – Thoughts – Thank you!

(... a moment...)

As has always been the case, a story can allow people to step into the plot in a safe manner, perhaps allowing readers an opening to see the pieces of and effects of racism in a way that a non-fiction report would not allow. This also provides a rich text for educators to use to address the issues of racism and expand out to cover numerous issues of “otherness” during such a politically polarized time.

(“Connections”)

"Black Like Me" by John Howard Griffin to compare the two writings, “Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Hearts and Hands," and "The Cry of the Children."

(Ending)

The look [Clare] gives Irene before going through the window definitely is a "wink wink" look.

(The Cover...)

It would be interesting to have students use pictures from a magazine to build a picture of their own face. They can use different parts of multiple images of people to create who they really are. Students could even make one side of how they view themselves and one side of how they think other people view them.

Old — Timeless — Provocative!



Scene from the original production of *Trifles*

Trifles was first staged by the Provincetown Players at the Wharf Theater in Provincetown, Massachusetts in the summer of 1916.



Susan Glaspell, 1876-1948



2000 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Many works of literature not readily identified with the mystery or detective story genre nonetheless involve the investigation of a mystery. In these works, the solution to the mystery may be less important than the knowledge gained in the process of its investigation. Choose a novel or play in which one or more of the characters confront a mystery. Then write an essay in which you identify the mystery and explain how the investigation illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

You may choose a work from the list below or another novel or play of similar quality.

Absalom, Absalom

Agnes of God

Alias Grace

All the King's Men

Bleak House

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Crime and Punishment

Equus

Fifth Business

Frankenstein

A Gathering of Old Men

Ghosts

Great Expectations

The Good Soldier

The Great Gatsby

Hamlet

Heart of Darkness

Hedda Gabler

In the Lake of the Woods

Jane Eyre

Joe Turner's Come and Gone

Lord Jim

The Mayor of Casterbridge

Monkey Bridge

Oedipus Rex

The Remains of the Day

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Snow Falling on Cedars

Song of Solomon

Tom Jones

The Trial

Trifles

The Turn of the Screw

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?





Key Questions: Preparing to Write an AP Literary Argument

KEY QUESTIONS

Preparing to Write an AP[®] Literary Argument

- Which characters change throughout the text, and which stay the same? What meanings do these changes (or lack thereof) convey?
- Where does the action take place? What elements of setting do the characters notice and discuss?
- How do the characters' experiences and the setting relate to the structure and events of the plot?
- Do certain objects take on increased significance as the work progresses? Do any other elements strike you as symbolic?
- How do these big-picture elements work together to raise questions and explore issues as they tell a story?



Classroom Application: Practice for Q. 3 Literary Argument

- **Sample prompt:** Many literary works feature a moral dilemma that characters approach from different perspectives and with different motivations. These differing perspectives and motivations often generate conflict with significant implications for the work. Either from your own reading or from the list below, choose a work of fiction in which characters approach a moral dilemma from different perspectives and different motivations. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the conflicts created by these different perspectives and motivations contribute to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.



Revising AP Literary Argument Thesis Statements

Revising AP[®] Literary Argument Thesis Statements

activity

Discuss whether each of the following statements responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation of the play. If a statement does not offer a defensible interpretation, indicate whether it merely restates the prompt, summarizes the issue without making a claim, offers a self-evident explanation, fails to address the prompt, or presents a combination of these.

1. The characters in *Trifles* do not all respond the same way to the moral dilemma they face because they have different perspectives and motivations.
2. The play *Trifles* reveals how empathizing with others can shift our perspectives and motivations in ways that influence how we respond to moral dilemmas.
3. The broken birdcage in *Trifles* functions both as a clue to the circumstances of the murder and as a symbol of Mrs. Wright's freedom.
4. The frigid setting of Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* showcases the perspectives and motivations of all three women: it highlights the cold and isolated existence of the absent Mrs. Wright, while evoking the sympathetic responses of Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters.
5. In *Trifles*, the male authority figures, including the sheriff himself, dismiss the female characters' perspectives on the murder of Mr. Wright in a way that creates a moral dilemma for the women.
6. The kitchen, the dead bird, and the knots in the quilt have symbolic significance for the overall meaning of *Trifles*.



Trifles by Susan Glaspell

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Contemporary Comparison

The Power of the Dog
directed by Jane
Campion, starring
Benedict Cumberbatch,
Kirsten Dunst,
Jesse Plemons,
Kodi Smit-McPhee





Trifles by Susan Glaspell

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Let's talk Sophistication: Critical Lenses

Psychological

Cultural

Gendered



Trifles by Susan Glaspell

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Thinking of Ukraine

from Searching for a Lost Odessa--and a Deaf Childhood

Ilya Kaminsky

Understanding the Ukraine Crisis: A Comprehensive Reading List

Ilya Kaminsky on Ukrainian, Russian, and the Language of War



In a Time of Peace by Ilya Kaminsky

Inhabitant of earth for forty something years
I once found myself in a peaceful country. I watch neighbors open

their phones to watch
a cop demanding a man's driver's license. When a man reaches for his
wallet, the cop
shoots. Into the car window. Shoots.

It is a peaceful country.

We pocket our phones and go.
To the dentist,
to buy shampoo,
pick up the children from school,
get basil.

Ours is a country in which a boy shot by police lies on the pavement
for hours.

We see in his open mouth
the nakedness
of the whole nation.

We watch. Watch
others watch.

The body of a boy lies on the pavement exactly like the body of a boy.

It is a peaceful country.

And it clips our citizens' bodies
effortlessly, the way the President's wife trims her toenails.

All of us
still have to do the hard work of dentist appointments,
of remembering to make
a summer salad: basil, tomatoes, it is a joy, tomatoes, add a little salt.

This is a time of peace.

I do not hear gunshots,
but watch birds splash over the backyards of the suburbs. How bright is the sky
as the avenue spins on its axis.
How bright is the sky (forgive me) how bright.