

Multiple Choice Pre-Reading Strategies

- Identify number of passages, years/genres for each passage; then, label them (pre-20th poetry/prose or 20th century poetry/prose).
- For each passage, box the questions related to big-picture questions (theme, tone, characterization).
- For each question, circle specific literary concepts and underline the task.
- For each question, [bracket] the line(s) and mark with the question number.
- For each question that mentions specific line(s), underline those lines in the passage.

Multiple Choice Strategies

- Estimate how much time you will need for each passage, and make note of it.
- Order the passages; start with the passage of the time period and genre for which you are strongest.
- Use the questions you boxed (theme, tone, characterization) as your primary guides.
- Use process of elimination, and literally cross through wrong choices.
- When possible, identify answer choices by positive (+) or negative (-), and eliminate all those that do not fit immediately.
- Bubble only at end of each page (not question by question).

AP Literature FRQ1 (poetry)

- Mark prompt and determine your central tasks.
- Identify the subject of the poem(s), and determine positive (+) or negative (-) tone.
- Address theme and tone of poem(s) in your thesis.
- Pay attention to patterns of diction, and look for shift.
- Discuss literary devices; if paired poems, note contrasts in tone and point of view.
- Use details from the entire poem, not just a portion.

AP Literature FRQ2 (prose)

- Address all tasks in the your thesis and development.
- Focus on characterization and tone – not theme.
- Identify the shift (usually the bottom of column 1 or top of column 2).
- Discuss complexity of character by providing two adjectives that describe two different character traits. (Carol is idealistic, yet pragmatic.)
- Consider point of view and social commentary.

AP Literature FRQ3 (theme)

- Cover the list of texts with your hand; then, read the prompt.
- Choose a work of literary merit from which you remember specific details.
- Mark the prompt to determine your tasks; address all portions of the prompt, including theme.
- Use precise details rather than generalizations for support.