

10 Tips for the AP Lit Multiple Choice

Before

1. Practice reading from various time periods and cultures: exams will often have at least one passage or poem from contemporary, modern, 19th century or 17th century, etc. and from different cultures: African-American voices, immigrant voices, and so on.
2. Review common grammar terms, especially dealing with complex sentences.
3. Review literary terms and be sure you can recognize terms in context; practice this with poems.
4. Practice with the sample exams as given in class and review your scored copies so that you can go over your mistakes and study what you need to work on.

During

5. Believe that you are where you need to be (mentally) and that you will do well on this test.
6. Read the first five questions before you do a preliminary reading.
7. Always read through the entire passage first and get a sense of what it is about.
8. Realize that one of the passages will be of a 'high' level, one or more will be at a 'medium' level, and one at an 'easy' level. *Move quickly on the easy one and don't belabor it.*
9. Stay focused, read quickly, and don't let your mind wander. Don't get entranced if you have an interesting passage. You can always read for enjoyment later.
10. Process of Elimination. Even on a question you are unsure of, you can usually find two of the answers that are not compatible with your understanding of the passage. Thus, your guess will be one out of two. 50/50 chance!