

Literature Essay Three (*Setting*)

Timed Essay: 40 minutes

After drafting each timed essay, you will read it aloud to your instructor and receive feedback for revision; you will then revise it and submit a final draft.

Do not merely summarize the plot. In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

Option 1:

Adapted from AP Exam essay prompt: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap21-frq-english-literature.pdf>

In many works of fiction, houses take on symbolic importance. Such houses may be literal houses or unconventional ones (e.g., hotels, hospitals, monasteries, or boats). Choose a work in which a literal or unconventional house serves as a significant symbol. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how this house contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole.

Option 2:

Choose a work in which a setting that is not a house (for example, an outdoor setting) serves as a significant symbol. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how this setting contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole.

You may choose a work from the list below (works which we have read since Cervantes).

Petrarch, *Canzoniere*:

- “Happy, fortunate flowers” (*Lieti fiori et felici*)
- “A pure white hind” (*Una candida cerva*)

Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*

Early Modern Hymns:

- Martin Luther, “A mighty fortress is our God” (*Ein feste burg ist unser Gott*)
- “Fairest Lord Jesus” (*Schönster Herr Jesu*)
- Joachim Neander, “Praise to the Lord! the Almighty, the King of Creation!” (*Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren*)
- Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, “Be still, my soul” (*Stille, mein wille*)

Molière, *Tartuffe*

Voltaire, *Candide*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Reveries of the Solitary Walker*

Georg Büchner, *Danton's Death*

Georg Büchner, *Woyzeck*

Asian poetry in translation:

- “Shu is Away”
- “Mu-lan”
- Li Po, “The River-Merchant’s Wife: A Letter”
- Wang Yinglin *or* Ou Shizi, “The Three Character Classic”
- Chǒng Ch’öl, “Magistrate”
- Matsuo Bashō, “Even in Kyoto”
- Yuan Mei, “Growing Old (I)”
- Tachibana Akemi, “Happiness is When”
- Tran Te Xuong, “Women”

19th-century Hymns:

- “May Jesus Christ be praised” (*Gelobt sey Jesus Christus*)
- “The Angels we have heard on high” (*Les Anges, dans nos campagnes*)
- Thomas Kelly, “Praise the Saviour, ye who know him”

Goethe, *Faust*

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes From Underground*

Rainer Maria Rilke, *The Sonnets to Orpheus*

Franz Kafka, “Metamorphosis”

Henrik Ibsen, *Doll's House*

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*