

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 9

VOCABULARY WORDS
MIDTERM EXAM 2014

MDG

dank
condone
zealous
deplorable
scruple

L/T?

impartial

emanate
presume
dire
fervent

Cask

precluded
fettered
explicit
repose
flagon
niter
implore
Amontillado
impunity
accosted
connoisseurship

WM

distraught
haggard
craven
insolent
insinuatingly
pandemonium
derisive
inscrutable

CM

inaugurating
conspiracy
potent
muse
cavorting

Ibis

caul
careen
serene
infallibility
blighted
doggedness
reiterate
precariously
heresy
iridescent

The Odyssey

impudence
ruse
renowned
appalled
guile
muse

SHORT STORY PLOTS AND CHARACTERIZATIONS ~~~Midterm Review

“The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell.

Sanger Rainsford, a famous hunter, falls overboard from a yacht in the Caribbean. He swims to land and comes upon a mansion where he is greeted by General Zaroff. Zaroff explains that he, too, is a hunter and uses his island home to hunt shipwrecked sailors. Zaroff says they will play a game: if Zaroff cannot find Rainsford in three days, he will help him off the island. Rainsford sets off but cannot outwit Zaroff. Finally, Rainsford jumps into the sea. Zaroff appears defeated. Rainsford appears, having swum to the chateau from the other side of the island. The two duel; Rainsford is the victor, now with a new view of his old favorite pastime.

“The Lady, or the Tiger?” by Frank R. Stockton.

A king has a unique method of administering justice: an accused criminal enters an arena and chooses between two doors. Behind one is a tiger that will devour him. Behind the other is a lady whom he will be forced to marry. The king's daughter is in love, but her father does not like her young man and sentences him to the arena. The king puts a lovely maiden behind one door. The princess is jealous of her. She finds out which door belongs to the tiger and which to the lady. When the young man enters the arena, the princess gives him a signal. He opens the door she indicates. Does the lady or the tiger emerge? The reader must decide.

“The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe

The narrator, Montresor, vows to exact revenge on Fortunato for an unspecified insult. During carnival season, Montresor sees Fortunato, who has been drinking. He flatters Fortunato and persuades him to inspect a barrel of Amontillado. Montresor manipulates Fortunato to his palazzo and down into his vaults using the lure of this special wine and the threat of an unseen rival. When the men reach a niche in the cellar wall, Montresor chains Fortunato to the wall and encloses the niche with bricks and mortar. Fortunato screams for help. When only a small opening remains, Montresor throws a torch into the niche and installs the final stone. At the story's end, he states that the crime has gone undetected for fifty years.

“The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber

Meek, ineffectual Walter Mitty has the world at his feet in his daydreams. He continually drifts into personal fantasylands during a shopping outing with his overbearing wife. However, the real world keeps intruding, as his wife, a police officer, a parking attendant, and even passersby interrupt his daydreams with duties he'd rather forget and mistakes caused by his inattention.

“A Christmas Memory” by Truman Capote

Truman Capote's memoir was inspired by Miss Sook Faulk, a distant cousin who was his childhood best friend. The events unfold at Christmastime during the Great Depression, in rural Alabama. The boy, Buddy, is seven years old, and his friend is in her sixties. This unlikely pair form an extended bond over their lowly family status, the making and gifting of fruitcakes, their love of the outdoors, and sharing their holiday joy with those they treasure.

“The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst

The narrator tells about his childhood on a cotton farm in the deep South at the time of WWI -- between 1912 and 1918. Foremost in his memory is his younger brother Doodle who was expected to die in infancy, but survived. At first, he could not walk. The narrator had to lug Doodle along everywhere, which was a burden in many ways. Over time, the boys become inseparable, reveling in the bonds of their secret goal. Together they conquer the seemingly impossible and push toward even greater feats. In the process, the lesson comes in learning to accept limitations and coping with shame.