

## LITERATURE

### *An Introduction to the Literature of the Cold War*

- I. CRITICAL READING 15%
  - A. Purpose and Main Idea
  - B. Structure
  - C. Restatement of Information
  - D. Genres and their Characteristics
  - E. Language and Tone
  - F. Grammar and Syntax
  - G. Vocabulary in Context
  - H. Diction
  
- II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW 10%
  - A. The Origins of the Cold War
  - B. The Atomic Bomb
  - C. Kennan's "Long Telegram" and the Truman Doctrine
  - D. Confrontations in Germany and Korea
  - E. The Turbulent Fifties
  - F. Khrushchev and Kennedy
  - G. Treaties and Troubles
  - H. Détente
  - I. The Second Cold War
  - J. The End of the Cold War
  - K. The Cold War's Legacy
  
- III. *CAT'S CRADLE* (1963) BY KURT VONNEGUT, JR. 30%
  - A. Themes
    - 1. Criticism of Amoral Science and Scientists
    - 2. Cold War Attitudes toward the "Third World"
    - 3. Ice-Nine and Nuclear Weapons
    - 4. Bokomonism, Truth, and Lies
    - 5. Damaged Parent-Child Relationships
  - B. Characters
  - C. Plot Summary
  - D. Context: Vonnegut's Early Novels
    - 1. *Player Piano*
    - 2. *The Sirens of Titan*
    - 3. *Mother Night*
  - E. Context: Apocalyptic Fiction
    - 1. Nevil Shute's *On the Beach* (1957)
    - 2. Walter M. Miller's *A Canticle for Leibovitz* (1959)
    - 3. Mordecai Roshwald's *Level 7* (1959)
    - 4. Pat Frank's *Alas, Babylon* (1960)

- F. Context: “Black humor” as a Response to Atomic Anxiety
  - 1. Joseph Heller’s *Catch-22* (1961)
  - 2. Stanley Kubrick’s *Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964)
  - 3. The Comic-Satirical Songs of Tom Lehrer

IV. SHORTER WORKS      45%

A. Short Stories

- 1. SELECTED WORK: “THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS” (1950) BY RAY BRADBURY
  - a. Introduction to Ray Bradbury
  - b. “There Will Come Soft Rains”: Summary
  - c. Analysis: Technology Displaces Humanity
- 2. SELECTED WORK: “THE TERMINAL BEACH” (1964) BY J. G. BALLARD
  - a. Introduction to J. G. Ballard
  - b. “The Terminal Beach”: Summary
  - c. Analysis: The Cold War’s Intertwined Physical and Psychological Damage
- 3. SELECTED WORK: “REPORT ON THE THREATENED CITY” (1971) BY DORIS LESSING
  - a. Introduction to Doris Lessing
  - b. “Report on the Threatened City”: Summary
  - c. Analysis: How and Why Humanity is Threatened by the Cold War

B. Poems and Songs

- 1. SELECTED WORK: “ADVICE TO A PROPHET” (1959) BY RICHARD WILBUR
  - a. Introduction to Richard Wilbur
  - b. “Advice to a Prophet”: Summary and Analysis
- 2. SELECTED WORK: “TALKIN’ WORLD WAR III BLUES” (1963) BY BOB DYLAN
  - a. Introduction to Bob Dylan
  - b. “Talkin’ World War III Blues”: Summary and Analysis
- 3. SELECTED WORK: “FOR ETHEL ROSENBERG” (1981) BY ADRIENNE RICH
  - a. Introduction to Adrienne Rich
  - b. “For Ethel Rosenberg”: Summary and Analysis

C. Speeches

- 1. SELECTED WORK: JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, SPEECH AT THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE: WORLD PEACE AND COOPERATION, APRIL 22, 1955
  - a. Introduction to Jawaharlal Nehru
  - b. Nehru’s Speech at the Bandung Conference: Summary and Analysis
- 2. SELECTED WORK: JOHN F. KENNEDY, “SWORD OF DAMOCLES” SPEECH AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SEPTEMBER 25, 1961
  - a. Introduction to John F. Kennedy
  - b. Kennedy’s “Sword of Damocles” Speech: Summary and Analysis
- 3. SELECTED WORK: ADDRESS BY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION (EXCERPTS), DECEMBER 7, 1988
  - a. Introduction to Mikhail Gorbachev
  - b. Gorbachev’s Address at the UN General Assembly: Summary and Analysis