

Socratic Seminar #1 | *Romanticism*

Directions:

Pre-seminar – (SS Prep work) 30 points

- Answer all SS questions (see below). Answer in complete sentences **using properly cited textual support to back up your answer**. Avoid generalizations! You should have specific, detailed answers with textual support to receive full credit. Each answer must be a minimum of 5 sentences. Keep in mind that you do not need properly integrated quotes or the formality of an extended response paragraph.

During-seminar – (engage as both a participant and a coach) 30 points

Our first seminar will be held as a formal discussion, with all students participating during the entire class period. Here are your participation expectations:

- All students must come to the discussion prepared with the following:
 - Prep work; TSL book; BJU Anthology
- Each student must participate a minimum of 3 times during the discussion; fulfilling the minimum participation requirement does not guarantee full participation credit. The goal is quality participation.
- Quality participation requires the following:
 - Comments must be supported by specific textual evidence (best to refer to specific page number so that other students can also consult the evidence)
 - Comments must be substantive (i.e. more than 1-2 sentences long, avoid simple statements.)
 - Comments can be responses to other students or opening up a new topic of discussion
 - Comments must remain on topic. Remember, this is a literary discussion. Avoid rabbit trails.
- Participants should maintain eye contact with other participants. (Do not stay glued to your notes!); talk to the group, not your tutor.
- Participants may speak at any time during the seminar with respect for the other participants; do not interrupt or speak over another participant; speak politely, even when you disagree.
- Participants must monitor their own “air time.” Here are some tips:
 - Points will be deducted if you over-participate
 - Once you’ve made a comment, allow at least 2 other students to participate before making another comment
 - Once you’ve reached your 3 comment minimum, allow others the opportunity to participate, particularly those who are more reluctant.
 - Allow for pauses in the conversation. This gives others the opportunity to speak.
- Participants must not UNDER participate. Here are some tips:
 - Points will be deducted if you do not meet the participation requirement.
 - As you prepare, think of 3 points that you would like to introduce to the conversation. Highlight those points in your prep work.
 - Be bold! Jump into the conversation as soon as there’s an opportunity!
 - Don’t be afraid to switch the direction of the conversation to one of the 3 points you’ve prepared.

Socratic Seminar Questions:

1. Pick 1 of the 4 cornerstones of American Romanticism. Explain the cornerstone and then choose 1-2 romantic works and show how they exemplify it.
2. In *The Scarlet Letter* each of the three main adult characters experiences a different kind of guilt, and each handles his or her guilt differently. Choose a character and discuss their guilt (i.e. causes, outcomes, how they handled it, etc.). Do you agree with how they chose to handle their guilt? Why or why not?
3. Hawthorne uses *The Scarlet Letter* to teach several important themes. Pick one and discuss. Is the theme still relevant today? Make sure to use textual support to back up your answer.
4. Examine the major tenets of transcendentalism. From a biblical perspective, did the optimists or pessimists have a more accurate view? Where did each miss the mark? Be sure to incorporate textual and biblical evidence in your answer.
5. Pick a work you read from Romanticism and discuss its relevance today. What lessons can we learn from the literature written during this time period?
6. Compose a question of your own that pertains to the Romantic period of literature or one of the works we have read. Your question should be well thought out and should be able to be answered using textual support. You do not need to answer this question, but you should be prepared to ask it during the seminar.