

Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya
Department of English
MA Semester III
Question Bank

3ECC-American Literatures III

1. What was the American Renaissance? Discuss in detail giving examples of the texts you have studied.
2. How does Transcendentalism change the shape of American Literature? Discuss.
3. R.W. Emerson is the founder of American Transcendentalism. Elucidate.
4. What is the problem in Emerson's '*The Problem*'? Discuss in detail.
5. What does Emerson have to say about religion in the poem '*The Problem*'?
6. In his poem '*The Snow Storm*', Emerson eulogises the power of nature. Illustrate.
7. What is Whitman's view of America as he discusses in *Preface to the Leaves of Grass*.
8. What kind of landscapes do we see in Whitman's *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry*?
9. Comment on the evolution of thought in *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry*.
10. Attempt a critical analysis of the Walt Whitman's *I Hear It was Charged Against Me*.
11. How does Thoreau answer the question implied in the title *From Where I lived and What I lived For*?
12. Thoreau's *Where I lived and What I lived For* discusses his profound relationship with nature. Elucidate.
13. How does Thoreau create an antithesis between solitude and society in the essay *Where I lived and What I lived For*.

14. How is Hansberry critiquing traditional sex roles in the play *A Raisin in The Sun*?
15. How does Hansberry challenge American stereotypes about African Americans in the society through the play *A Raisin in The Sun*?
16. *A Raisin in The Sun* was written forty years ago. How does it find relevance in the contemporary times?
17. The play *A Raisin in The Sun* is prefaced by a Langston Hughes poem. How does it illustrate the theme of the poem?
18. How does the theme of 'assimilation' is illustrated in the play *A Raisin in The Sun*?
19. What is the significance of the day 1823 in the story *Mama Day*?
20. Discuss the supernatural in Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*.
21. Draw a character sketch of Cocoa based on your reading of Naylor's *Mama Day*.
22. How does *Mama Day* become a feminist novel?
23. How does murder become an important motif in Richard Wright's *The Native Son*?
24. Discuss 'individuality' and 'oppression' in *The Native Son*.
25. Discuss the theme of racial discrimination as illustrated in *The Native Son*.