

Questionnaire ^{Part Two} *Literature*

answers are due at 10am on Tuesday, 9/28

you may find it convenient to answer questions 1 and 2 simultaneously

1. What is Literature (there are many working definitions; give one that you think is useful and important)?

2. What distinguishes "Literature" from other sorts of fiction?

3. What is Literature good for? Why read Literature instead of something else?

4. Define "genre." How do you know when a piece fits a certain genre?

5. List as many of the different points of view as you know ("first person," and so on...including any variations of each), and define them briefly. Choose one p.o.v. and describe the advantages it gives and the limitations it imposes on the writer.

6. Please define “novel” in terms other than length.

7. Give an example of a novel or story that has an underlying structure. Explain.

8. Please describe the differences between poetry& prose in terms other than rhyme, meter, and line breaks. An answer to this question is only reasonable so long as it does not seek any absolute definition of prose and poetry; instead, simply describe their observable and usual differences.

9. List a few books that you have read that you regard as very important.

10. In “The Poet,” one of our country’s great thinkers and essayists, Ralph Waldo Emerson, writes that “Language is fossil poetry.” Without worrying about the context of his essay, what does that mean?