Final Exam, ENG 1121

Spring, 2020 Prof. Sean Scanlan

**Strict Deadline: Monday, May 25, 5:00 pm.**

**Email to sscanlan@citytech.cuny.edu**

**Note: This is an open-book exam.** Students may use any of the texts we discussed this semester (essays, poems, and short stories). In addition, students may use notes and any class handouts.

Overall Directions:

*1--Read the exam carefully*

*2--Type directly onto this document: make it clear which quotations you are answering by providing adequate spacing*

*3--Make sure to proofread all answers (grammar and spell check, please)*

*4--Add your name the file name. Example: SeanScanlan-ENG-1121-Final Exam-Spring2020*

*5--Email your exam to me: sscanlan@citytech.cuny.edu*

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Section 1: Quotation Identification (60 point; 15 points each)

**Directions: Choose 4 out of these 5 quotations.** For each quotation identify the following:

a: the title

b: the author

c: the main character(s)

d: why this quotation is important to understanding the overall meaning of the text. [suggested length: 2-4 sentences]

1.

In retrospect, I was a sad little boy and a standard-issue, shiftless, egotistical, dejected teen-ager. Everything was going to hell, and then these strangers let me come to their school and showed me how to read. All things considered, every year since has been a more intense and enigmatic joy.

2.

Then there are the sullen and already defeated Indian kids who sit in the back rows and ignore me with theatrical precision. The pages of their notebooks are empty. They carry neither pencil nor pen. They stare out the window. They refuse and resist. “Books,” I say to them. “Books,” I say. I throw my weight against their locked doors. The door holds. I am smart. I am arrogant. I am lucky. I am trying to save our lives.

3.

We were very tired, we were very merry,

We had gone back and forth all night on the ferry.

We hailed, “Good morrow, mother!” to a shawl-covered head,

And bought a morning paper, which neither of us read;

And she wept, “God bless you!” for the apples and pears,

And we gave her all our money but our subway fares.

4.

Jazz liked to say that it wasn’t her job to refuse entry to the UK. It was her job to have an inner arm bell — rather like one of those microchips that President Obama plants in people’s brains. And when someone wasn’t coming to the UK for the right reasons, it was her job to hear that bell ring.

5.

Where should he go? He wanted to find a building out of which he could jump and kill himself. How about the temple? No, it had only two stories. Too low. How about the elementary school? No, his ghost might frighten the children if he died there, and people would condemn him.

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Section 2: (40 points)

**Essay Question**

Directions: Write a brief essay in which you explore character ethics in “Assimilation” by E.L. Doctorow (in the Reading menu tab). More specifically, compare the ethical position that two characters follow; you can choose among the following main characters: Ramon, Jalena, Leon, Mr. Borislav, and Mrs. Borislav. Which of the two characters you select is the “better” person? Why? Use concrete examples from the text and consider quoting from the class handout on the five types of ethics to support your answer. (approximately 400 words; type your essay under this paragraph)

Type your essay here:

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Extra Credit (6 points)

Name the author of this poem (2 points) and explain how one metaphor works (4 points):

In a Station of the Metro

The apparition of these faces in the crowd:

Petals on a wet, black bough.