10th Grade English  
Semester 2 Final Exam  
Study Guide

*Please complete this study guide and turn it in on the day of your class’ final exam in English 10. It is a mandatory assignment and is worth 100 points! NO LATE STUDY GUIDES WILL BE ACCEPTED!***

For credit: highlight reading passages (10 points for each passage = 20 points total), define 52 terms (1 point for each term = 52 points total), write rough drafts of short answer responses (5 points for each of the 2 rough drafts = 10 points total), and build notecard for essay (15 points total). If you finish the entire study guide, you get the remaining 3 points for free!

**Section One: Reading Comprehension**

Please read the following TWO passages MULTIPLE TIMES—become VERY familiar with them! Make sure to define and to know any unfamiliar vocabulary that is used in these passages.

**Passage One: An excerpt from “The Imp of the Perverse” (8 paragraphs)**

by Edgar Allan Poe

1 It is impossible that any deed could have been wrought with more thorough deliberation. For weeks, for months, I pondered upon the means of the murder. I rejected a thousand schemes, because their accomplishment involved a chance of detection. At length, in reading some French memoirs, I found an account of a nearly fatal illness that occurred to Madame Pilau, through the agency of a candle accidentally poisoned. The idea struck my fancy at once. I knew my victim's habit of reading in bed. I knew, too, that his apartment was narrow and ill-ventilated. But I need not vex you with impertinent details. I need not describe the easy artifices by which I substituted, in his candlestand, a wax-light of my own making, for the one which I there found. The next morning he was dead in his bed, and the verdict was,— "Death by the visitation of God."

2 Having inherited his estate, all went merrily with me for years. The idea of detection never obtruded itself. Of the remains of the fatal taper, I had myself carefully disposed, nor had I left the shadow of a clue by which it would be possible to convict, or even to suspect me of the crime. It is inconceivable how rich a sentiment of satisfaction arose in my bosom as I reflected upon my absolute security. For a very long period of time, I reveled in this sentiment. It afforded me, I believe, more real delight than all the mere worldly advantages accruing from my sin. There arrived at length an epoch, after which this pleasurable feeling took to itself a new tone, and grew, by scarcely perceptible gradations, into a haunting and harassing thought—a thought that harassed because it haunted. I could scarcely get rid of it for an instant. It is quite a common thing to be thus annoyed by the ringing in our ears, or memories, of the burden of an ordinary song, or some unimpressive snatches from an opera. Nor will we be less tormented though the song in itself be good, or the opera air meritorious. In this manner, at last, I would perpetually find myself pondering upon my impunity and security, and very frequently would catch myself repeating, in a low, under-tone, the phrases "I am safe—I am safe."

3 One day, while sauntering listlessly about the streets, I arrested myself in the act of murmurering, half aloud, these customary syllables. In a fit of petulance at my indiscretion I re-modeled them thus: —"I am safe—I am safe—yes, if I do not prove fool enough to make open confession."
No sooner had I uttered these words, than I felt an icy chill creep to my heart. I had had (long ago, during childhood) some experience in those fits of perversity, whose nature I have been at so much trouble in explaining, and I remembered that in no instance had I successfully resisted their attacks. And now my own casual self-suggestion, that I might possibly prove fool enough to make open confession—confronted me, as if the very ghost of him I had murdered—and beckoned me on to death.

At first, I made strong effort to shake off this nightmare of the soul. I whistled—I laughed aloud—I walked vigorously—faster and still faster. At length I saw—or fancied that I saw—a vast and formless shadow that seemed to dog my footsteps, approaching me from behind, with a cat-like and stealthy pace. It was then that I ran. I felt a wild desire to shriek aloud. Every succeeding wave of thought overwhelmed me with new terror, for, alas! I understood too well that to think, in my condition, was to be undone. I still quickened my steps. I bounded like a madman through the crowded thoroughfares. But now the populace took alarm, and pursued. Then—then I felt the consummation of my fate. Could I have torn out my tongue, I would have done it—but a rough voice from some member of the crowd now resounded in my ears, and a rougher grasp seized me by the arm. I turned—I gasped for breath. For a moment, I experienced all the pangs of suffocation; I became blind, and deaf, and giddy; and at this instant it was no mortal hand, I knew, that struck me violently with a broad and massive palm upon the back. At that blow the long-imprisoned secret burst forth from my soul.

They say that I spoke with distinct enunciation, but with emphasis and passionate hurry, as if in dread of interruption before concluding the brief but pregnant sentences that consigned me to the hangman and to hell.

Having related all that was necessary for the fullest judicial conviction, I fell prostrate in a swoon.

But why shall I say more? To-day I wear these chains, and am here. Tomorrow I shall be fetterless!—but where?

**Passage Two: “Empty Bowls” (5 paragraphs)**
by Brian Jackson

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), about 870 million people suffer from chronic hunger. That is one in every eight people, or about 13 percent of the world's population. Some people may think this is the result of a food shortage, but that's incorrect. In fact, the world produces enough food to feed everyone. The problem is that nutritious food is not always available where it is needed. Another reason so many people go hungry is economics. Many people simply cannot afford to buy the food they need. Charities and other organizations are needed to help people afford and have access to nutritious food. One of these organizations is the Empty Bowls Project.

In November 1990, an art teacher named John Hartom wanted to raise money for a local food bank. He had an idea: host a soup lunch at his school and ask for donations from other teachers. To make the event unique, he would use ceramic bowls made by the students in his ceramics class to serve the soup. His students got excited about the project and produced all the bowls that would be needed for the luncheon.

On the day of the lunch, after everyone had eaten, Hartom spoke to the group. He talked about the problem of hunger, pointing out that many people had empty bowls every day. He then
invited the guests to keep their empty ceramic bowls to remind them of the hungry. "There was a moment of stunned silence," says Hartom, and he knew he had started something big.

4 People were deeply moved by the symbolism of the empty bowl. The following year, Hartom expanded the idea into the Empty Bowls Project. He and his wife drew up a set of guidelines for others to follow. Organizers of similar luncheons are welcome to use the Empty Bowls name, and they are not required to pay Empty Bowls for this privilege. One hundred percent of the money collected at an Empty Bowls event is given to local food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters. Each sponsoring organization decides where to donate the money. What had started out as a one-time event soon spread throughout the United States and Canada. Over the years, Empty Bowls events have raised tens of millions of dollars to help feed the hungry.

5 Next week, an Empty Bowls event will be held here in town. More than a dozen local artists donated bowls for the event. Why should you go? Because in the United States, one in six people suffer from hunger or food insecurity. Hungry children are more likely to get sick and do worse in school. If we want to keep this country great, then we need to keep this country full.

SECTION TWO: Literary and Writing Terminology
Please make sure to know the following terms and how they apply in each of the two reading passages.

Passage One:
Narrator
Characters
Characterization
Point of View
Plot
Conflict
Climax
Resolution
Setting
Tension
Tone
Explicit Meaning
Implicit Meaning

Passage Two:
Tone
Opinion and Support
Compare and Contrast
Cause and Effect
Problem and Solution
Author’s Purpose
Thesis Statement
Support (Evidence)
Evidence: Statistics, etc.
Symbols/Symbolism
Plot - order of events: cause-and-effect order, most important to least important order, chronological order, and spatial order
SECTION THREE: Vocabulary Words
Please make sure to know the following words from the reading passages. Please know, both, the connotations and the denotations of each word.

impertinent  
sentimental  
gruesome  
intellectual  
impunity  
burdens  
chronic  
occasional  
constant  
listlessly  
shriek  
apprehensive  
nervous  
cautious  
terrified  
stunned  
intrigued.  
astounded  
confused

SECTION FOUR: Short Answer Responses
1. Be able to write two or three sentences to answer questions about the passages.
2. Use evidence from the text of "The Imp of the Perverse" to describe how the character of the narrator changes from cold and calculating to guilt-ridden and paranoid.
3. Use evidence from the text of "Empty Bowls" to support the inference that John Hartom's motivations were to help others rather than to make money or earn fame for himself.

SECTION FIVE: Grammar, Mechanics, and Writing Styles
Please make sure to know the following grammar, mechanics, and writing style terminology.

Noun clause  
Colloquialism  
Revision  
Formal tone  
Informal tone

SECTION SIX: ESSAY (EXTENDED RESPONSE)
1. Please build a 3x5 index card that contains the following information about one of the lengthy pieces of literature that we have read: author, title, characters, themes, plot, conflict, climax, resolution, tone, style (formal vs. informal), and symbols/symbolism. You will use this notecard while writing your final exam essay! This notecard is worth 15 points!
2. Examples of the major literature from this year: *Macbeth, Night, Unbroken, Farewell to Manzanar, Fahrenheit 451, The Metamorphosis* (excerpt), and numerous short stories (the longer ones—please check my website for titles).

3. Please know and be able to use the five-paragraph essay format: an introduction paragraph (40-75 words) with thesis statement, three body paragraphs (7-11 sentences each) with opinions/analysis and supporting evidence, and a conclusion paragraph with last argumentation of thesis statement (40-75 words).