

Introduction to Regionalism, Realism, and Naturalism

Background Questions

Regionalism & Realism (1880-1910) – pg. 486--487

1. What were some of the challenges faced by Americans during the early nineteenth century?
2. What improvements induced more Americans to move to the Great Plains?
3. What nickname was given to farmers?
4. What lured Americans to settle the Mountain states?
5. Explain what happened to the Native Americans?
6. What important inventions helped develop the country's economy?
7. What "honor" was America given by the early 1900s?
8. Knowing that the definition of gild is to make something seem more attractive or valuable than it really is, explain why Mark Twain dubbed America the "Gilded Age".
9. Name an effect of overpopulation.
10. What was Hull House?
11. What is a muckraker?
12. What is the subject of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*?
13. Who was Susan B. Anthony?
14. How did the government feel about giving women the right to vote?
15. What was the first state to allow women to vote?
16. What is the 19th Amendment to the Constitution?
17. What is Realism?
18. What is Naturalism?
19. What is Regionalism?

Urban America's Two Faces (p. 536-537)

1. What two contrasting urban groups were created in the late 19th and early 20th century?
2. What was the major cause of such a drastic "wedge" between the classes?
3. What was the main focus of American writers in this time?
4. How did Wharton and James feel about upper class society?
5. What elements of their backgrounds do Wharton and James have in common?
6. What type of narrative is James credited with creating?
7. What was one of James' favorite themes to write about?
8. What is the title of the short story that illustrates the face of the Urban poor?
9. What was the common topic of writings by Anzia Yezierska and Abraham Cahan?
10. What is the basic plot of Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*?
11. Who was Jane Addams?
12. What was the topic written about by "muckrakers"?
13. What were the results of Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives*?