

Unit 1 – OUR TOWN – UNIT TEST REVIEW

“Bowling Alone” by Robert Putnam

1. According to Putnam, what do communities with strong civic engagement have?
2. How does social capital differ from physical and human capital?
3. What are some examples that Putnam gives of civic engagement?
4. Why does Putnam say that “tertiary groups” are not evidence of strong civic engagement?
5. What trends does Putnam say may have contributed to the decline of civic engagement?
6. What was Putnam’s purpose for writing “Bowling Alone”?

***Our Town* by Thornton Wilder**

7. What is metatheater? List some examples from the play.
8. From the start of Act I to the end of Act I, how much time has elapsed?
9. What is the first indication to the audience that the Stage Manager knows more than other people?
10. What are some ways that Wilder symbolizes the idea of new beginnings in Act I?
11. What items does the Stage Manager want to include in the town’s time capsule?
12. What is Emily primarily concerned about in Act I?
13. What is George Gibbs’ main interest in Act I?
14. At the end of Act I, what does Mrs. Soames say is the “worst scandal that ever was in [Grover’s Corners]”?
15. How much time passes between Act I and Act II?
16. What are some ways in the beginning of Act II that Wilder illustrates the idea that life in Grover’s Corners is routine but that change is inevitable?
17. How do George’s and Emily’s parents feel about the marriage between their children?
18. In a flashback describing the scene in which George and Emily know they are “meant for each other,” what does Emily first accuse George of?
19. What are the various roles/characters the Stage Manager assumes during Act II?
20. What does Emily tell George she expects a man to be?
21. How do George and Emily feel at the beginning of the wedding?
22. How much time passes between Act II and Act III?
23. What are the dead like in Act III?
24. How do the dead feel about the living?
25. When Emily decides to return to the living, what do the dead advise her?
26. How do Wilder’s choices in structuring the events of Act III contribute to the development of the play’s themes?
27. Which of the following describes Emily’s feelings when she returns to her 12th birthday?

28. Who does the Stage Manager say are the only people who may “realize life” while they live it?

“Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson

29. Why, according to Emerson, do we value Moses, Plato, and Milton?
30. What does Emerson mean by stating that “no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given him to till”?
31. According to Emerson, how do we feel after we have worked hard for a goal?
32. What is Emerson’s opinion of society?
33. What does Emerson say is that the most sacred part of a person?
34. What does Emerson call the “hobgoblin of little minds”?
35. What is the tone of Emerson’s “Self-Reliance”?

“Because I Could Not Stop for Death” by Emily Dickinson

36. What does Dickinson’s personification of death suggest?
37. What do the various elements of the second stanza symbolize?
38. How does the final stanza express a central idea that is also expressed in the final act of *Our Town*?

“Mending Wall” by Robert Frost

39. Why do the speaker and the narrator meet each other each spring?
40. The neighbor twice says, “Good fences make good neighbors.” What does the repetition of the sentence suggest?
41. What evidence from the poem suggest the neighbor’s desire to maintain the separation between him and the speaker?
42. What is a central idea common to “Mending Wall” and “Bowling Alone”?
43. What is a central idea common to “Mending Wall” and *Our Town*?
44. What is a central idea common to “Mending Wall” and “Self-Reliance”?

“The Interlopers” by Saki

45. How does the description of the forest impact the story?
46. How does the relationship between the two men in “The Interlopers” parallel the relationship between the neighbor and the speaker in “Mending Wall”?
47. How do Saki in “The Interlopers” and Frost in “Mending Wall” portray nature?
48. What is the impact of the single word—wolves—that concludes the story?