

**21L 485 Twentieth Century Fiction**  
**Prof. David Thorburn**

**Midterm Test**

**Part One (30 points)**

Identify *ten* of the following items and comment briefly on the relevance of each to our course. In the case of quotations, try to identify their context and their contribution to central themes.

1. Ford's relation to Conrad
2. Kurtz's Intended
3. Billy Fish
4. "The Secret Sharer"
5. drama of the telling
6. omniscient narrator
7. mimesis
8. I would not knock old fellows in the dust
9. bottle-green eyes
10. I have, I am aware, told this story in a very rambling way so that it may be difficult for anyone to find his path through what may be a sort of maze. I cannot help it.
11. *Starry Night*
12. For the first fortnight his parents could not bring themselves to the point of entering his room, and he often heard them expressing their appreciation of his sister's activities, whereas formerly they had frequently scolded her for being ... a somewhat useless daughter.

**Part Two (70 points)**

Answer *one* of the following questions, citing specific scenes, events and passages to support your argument.

1. Compare *Heart of Darkness* to *The Man Who Would Be King*. What elements do these tales share? How would you describe and evaluate their differences?
2. "Modern fiction is deeply ironic and anti-heroic, more likely to expose human weaknesses and failings than to dramatize achievement and success." Discuss this statement with reference to *at least three* of our writers.