

English 12/AP Literature and Composition
Anna Karenina: Review

I. Characters. Expect a long list of character matching. Know your characters well enough to be able to move quickly. Eligible characters for character ID are

Stiva	Agafya	Serpukhovskoy
Dolly	Countess Nordston	Stremov
Kitty	Princess Scherbatsky	Mikhailov
Levin	Prince Scherbatsky	
Anna	Varenka	
Karenin	Mme. Stahl	
Vronsky	Lydia Ivanovna	
Sergey	Landau	
Nikolay	Vasenska Veslovsky	
Seryozha	Marya	
Annie	Yashvin	
Princess Betsy	Katavasov	

Knowing character names in more than one form is useful, as character names will appear through quotations as well.

II. Quotation identification. To do well on quotation identification, students should know the fundamental chronology of the text as well as major symbols and themes. You should be able to complete a question set (one passage, 3-4 questions) in 5 minutes.

Here are some sample quotations:

1. ‘What happiness!’ she said with loathing and horror.

Who is the speaker (“she”)?

What is the context of the passage?

What stylistic device is in play here? To what end does Tolstoy use it?

What is the significance of the passage to the characterization of the speaker?

2. Reminding your son about you might lead to questions on his part which cannot be answered without instilling in the child's heart a spirit of condemnation of what for him should be sacred...

a. This passage is from a letter. Who is the writer of the letter?

b. Who is the "you"?

c. What is the context of the passage?

d. What is the speaker's motive in writing this letter? Your context answer should show how the passage fits into the plot; answer here about what the passage adds to your sense of the characterization of the speaker and his/her motives.

3. "Konstantin Levin did not like talking and hearing about the beauty of nature. Words for him removed the beauty of what he was seeing."

a. Place this passage in context. Who is Levin with?

b. What is the value of the natural world for Levin? Demonstrating your understanding of the text, explain Levin's relationship to the land.

4. '[S]he's not browbeaten like I am, but is no doubt just as vibrant, clever, and open to everything as ever,' thought _____, and a roguish smile of contentment wrinkled her lips, mainly because while she was thinking about Anna's love affair _____ had conjured up a parallel and almost identical love affair of her own with an imaginary composite man who was in love with her.

a. Fill in the blanks with the same name.

b. Why is it particularly satisfying for this person to "conjure up a parallel...love affair"?

c. What revelations in the subsequent scenes put an abrupt end to this fantasy? Why?

III. Essay. Students are given three questions in advance to prepare; they should prepare two because only two will appear on the test. They will answer one question on the test. You may not use notes on the test. The expectation is 1-2 paragraphs that show your mastery of the ideas of the text.

1. We have discussed split in Anna's character as one of intellect (Apollonian) and emotion (Dionysian). Choose another character who has a similar split and discuss not only how the division/conflict manifests throughout the book as well as what the dichotomy contributes to our overall reading of the text.

2. We have discussed the archetype of death and rebirth as appearing strongly as Nikolay dies and Kitty discovers she is pregnant. Choose another juxtaposition in the novel that manifests the same archetype. Discuss how the death-and-rebirth pattern is present and then what it adds to our overall reading of the novel.

3. The novel ends with Levin's conversion to Christianity, something the text asks us to accept as an answer to various problems in the text: the spiritualism of Karenin and Lydia Ivanovna, the superficial pleasure-seeking of Anna, Stiva, and Vronsky, and the pietism of Mme. Stahl. Anchoring your response in the novel, discuss what the implications of Tolstoy's message are for your own life. Be specific on the Tolstoy side and write a short personal essay that shows your thorough understanding of the text and application of the ideas to contemporary life.