

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/AL44

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 20067
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : AMERICAN LITERATURE

TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

SECTION – A **(3 x 5 = 15)**

1. Analyse any THREE, choosing at least one each from poetry and drama.

- a. Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon, within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.
- b. I've known her – from an ample nation
Choose One
Then-close the Valves of her attention-
Like Stone-
- c. Because isn't it true that even the summer
Grass here in this land whispers those names,
And every creek has accepted the responsibility
Of singing those names? And nothing can stop
The wind from howling those names around
The corners of the school.
- Why else would birds sing
So much sweeter here than in other lands?
- d. Charley : Nobody dast blame this man. You don't understand: Willy was a
salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put
a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He's a man
way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they
start not smiling back-that's an earthquake.
- e. Linda: Then make Charlie your father, Biff. You can't do that, can you? I
don't say he's a great man. Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name
was never in the paper. He's not the finest character that ever lived. But he's a
human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be
paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention,
attention must be finally paid to such a person. You called him crazy-

Biff: I didn't mean-

Linda: No, a lot of people think he's lost his-balance. But you don't have to be very smart to know what his trouble is. The man is exhausted.

SECTION – B

II. Answer any FOUR in about 250 words each. (4x10=40)

1. Examine Mark Twain's representation of Jim in *Huckleberry Finn*.
2. How does Hemingway combine defeat and heroism in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Use metaphor and incident from the text to elaborate your answer.
3. Attempt a character analysis of the protagonist in Malamud's novel, *The Assistant*.
4. Explain the argument in Frost's poem "Fire and Ice"
5. How does Amy Tan depict the mother-daughter relationship in "Two Kinds".
6. Identify cummings' statement in "next to of course god, America" and examine how form conditions the statement.

SECTION – C

III. Answer any THREE in about 500 words each. (3x15=45)

1. Briefly explain Transcendentalism with reference to "Pioneers, O Pioneers", and "Self Reliance".
2. Explain Harlem Renaissance in the light of "The Negro Speaks of Rivers".
3. Examine representations of the American South in "A Rose for Miss Emily".
4. Arthur Miller rewrote the definition of the American hero in *Willy Loman*. Discuss.
5. Identify and examine at least three characteristics of modern American poetry. You may choose your illustrations from Frost, Stevens and cummings.
