**English 1B Final Exam, Spring ’15, Laney College, Weidenbach due Wed. May 20, 2015**

1B Students: Here is the Final Exam. You can write it on your own time, or come to class on the 20th and write your responses in the classroom.

Important: Once you dig in, relax. Take your time. Take each of the three parts one at a time, and take each question one at a time.

\*\*\* PLEASE WRITE ALL RESPONSES BY HAND, USING REGULAR NOTEBOOK PAPER.\*\*\*

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Part 1 – Please answer the following questions about ***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coehlo.

1. Why does the Alchemist recommend that the boy trade his camel for a horse? (1 sentence, please.)
2. After the boy prophesizes an invasion, why do you think the old chieftain threatens the boy by saying, "If at least one of [the weapons] hasn't been used by the end of the day tomorrow, one will be used on you"? (2-3 sentences)
3. How does the following advice connect with the overall plot and thematic concerns of the story? (3-5 sentences, or more if you wish)

"...when we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too… Love is the force that transforms and improves the Soul of the World... It is we who nourish the Soul of the World, and the world we live in will be either better or worse, depending on whether we become better or worse. And that's where the power of love comes in. Because when we love, we always strive to become better than we are."

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Part 2 – Please read the story ***Salvation*** by Langston Hughes, and answer the following questions with very short paragraphs, 2-3 sentences each.

1. In your own words, identify the conflict(s) faced by the central character.
2. Explain how the author’s use of description enhances the sense of conflict.
3. Explain the central character in terms of **round** vs. **flat,** and **static** vs. **dynamic.**
4. Explain your view of the story’s ending in terms of a high or low degree of resolution.

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Part 3

Directions: Please read the poem below, and write short answers (2-5 sentences) BY HAND, on notebook paper, in response to each of the following questions:

1. If the situation of the poem is a man among others on his way to work, then what seems to be the attitude of the poem’s speaker toward this situation? (2-3 sentences)
2. The speaker says his wife, like others, includes in his lunchbox a little *“tid-bit”* of something “to prove to us / that love is not clipped out like a coupon”. What do you think he means by this? (2-3 sentences)
3. How would you describe the poem’s form and flow of language? (2-3 sentences)
4. What do you take as this poem’s statement or meaning, and why? (3-5 sentences)

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| **Charles Bukowski**  ***Winter Comes to a Lot of Places in August***  Winter comes to a lot of places in August,  like the railroad yards  when we come over the bridge,  hundreds of us,  workers, like cattle, 5  like Hannibal victorious over the Mountain;  Winter comes in Rome, Winter comes in Paris  and Miami  and we come  over the silver bridge, 10  carrying our olive lunch pails  with the good fat wives’ coffee  and 2 bologna sandwiches  and oh, just a *tid-bit* found somewhere  to warm our gross man-bones 15  and prove to us that love  is not clipped out like a coupon;  …here we come,  hundreds of us,  blank-faced and rough 20  (we *can* take it, god damn it!)  over our silver bridge,  smoking our cheap cigars in the grapefruit air;  here we come,  bulls stamping in cheap cotton, 25  bad boys all;  ah hell, we’d rather play the ponies  or chance a sunburn at the shore,  but we’re men, *god damn it,* men,  can’t you see? 30  men,  coming over our bridge,  taking our Rome and our coffee,  bitter, brave and  numb. 35 |  |