Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Rise of Realism: The Civil War to 1914**

**Study Questions**

**Directions:** Read textbook pages 382-396. Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. This sheet will be stapled to your answers. Answers on this sheet will not be graded.

**“Slavery Divides the Country”**

1. What were the two stated causes of the Civil War?

2. Why were the writings of Frederick Douglass and Harriet A. Jacobs significant?

**“A Response to the War: Idealism”**

3. Explain what Emerson meant by “sometimes gunpowder smells good.”

**“A Reality of the War: Appalling Suffering”**

Rifle balls often shattered soldiers’ bones, forcing doctors to amputate arms and legs. The limbs were often piled up on a cart outside the surgeon’s tent. Ignorant of the importance of sterile conditions for surgery, surgeons frequently honed their scalpels on the soles of their boots, so infections ran rampant in the field hospitals. There were no antibiotics, so even minor wounds could prove deadly.

4. After reading the above information, read the first paragraph under this section. What do you think Whitman saw in the soldiers that gave him cause for such optimism?

**“A Result of the War: Disillusionment”**

5. How do you think Whitman’s and Melville’s attitude toward the soldiers differ?

**“The War in Literature”**

6. Answer the following question Arpin poses within this section: “Why did an event of such magnitude result in such scanty (little) literary output?”

7. What was “the great novel of the war”? Who wrote it? What is significant about when the novel was written?

**“The Rise of Realism”**

8. What are the elements of realism?

9. Why did Romantic writers not merely limit themselves to writing realistically, writing what actually could happen?

**“Realism Takes Root in Europe”**

10. Writers of Realism did not merely concern themselves with recording people’s environment and manners of everyday life – how people lived and dressed as well as how they felt or what they talked about – they also strove to explain WHAT about people?

11. How did science, especially new scientific revelations, play a role in Realistic novels?

**“American Regionalism: Brush Strokes of Local Color”**

12. What were the limitations of many regionalism writings?

**“Realism and Naturalism: A Lens on Everyday Life”**

13. What are the elements of Naturalism?

**“Psychological Realism: Inside the Human Mind”**

14. How can psychological novels, such as Henry James’, best be described?

15. What do the writings of an ironist typically show about the universe?