

# BILLY BUDD Test: A

(Put each answer on a separate page.)

One Paragraph

One Paragraph

One Paragraph

One Paragraph

One Paragraph

One Paragraph

One Paragraph

Length will vary

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Starred items must be answered. Choose four from questions one through seven.

1. Is Billy more like Adam or more like Christ? Support your opinion by specific references to the novel.
2. The climax, or turning point, in a story is the point at which the outcome is inevitable or set. Where does this occur in Billy Budd? Explain your answer.
3. Explain the significance of Billy's and Vere's last words. Consider what these dying statements reveal about the speakers' minds.
4. Is Vere right or wrong in pushing the drumhead court to convict Billy and exact the extreme punishment? Justify your opinion.
5. This book relies heavily on allusion, which are references to famous people, events, things, or stories. Choose any three used and explain their meaning in the novel.
6. Any novel worth reading has at least one message to deliver or one lesson to be taught. What have you learned from reading Billy Budd?
7. This novel is a story about the war between good and evil. If any side can be seen as the "winner," which side? Explain.
8. Choose one of the following:
  - a. Re-tell the events in Chapter XX from Billy's point of view. Begin with the summons to Vere's cabin. Use "I."
  - b. Re-tell Billy's execution and burial from Captain Vere's point of view. Include weather, unusual events. Use "I."



# BILLY BUDD Test: B

<u>Billy Budd</u>	<u>Captain Vere</u>	<u>John Claggart</u>
innocence	B	experience
heart	A	intellect
passivity	L	action
good	A	evil
Adam	N	Satan
	E	

Several Paragraphs

1. The diagram above shows several of the ways this novel can be seen as the story (symbolically) of opposing forces. Use the chart, and any other ideas of such opposing forces you may have, to discuss the theme of Billy Budd.

One Paragraph

2. A central conflict in this novel is the difference between LAW and JUSTICE. Explain.

One Paragraph

3. Who is responsible for Billy's death? Think carefully and then respond at depth, explaining your answer.

Length will vary

4. Re-tell the significant events of the novel from one of the following viewpoints:

- Billy Budd
- Captain Vere
- Squeak
- Dansker



## BILLY BUDD Test: C

Length will vary

Re-tell Billy Budd from a single point-of-view. Use "I."

Several Paragraphs

Choose a single episode from the novel and demonstrate its contribution to the meaning of the entire book.