

**2010 AP Literature and Composition Exam
Question 1 | Poetry: The Century Quilt
FRQ SCORE KEY**

Essay	Score	Reader Notes
R	4	Despite evidence of an adequate <i>reading</i> , the essay is ultimately inconclusive. Its unclear focus and superficial development of “meaning” makes it an ideal 4.
XX	5	A strong 5; the writer promises three things in the thesis and delivers them...but without style or grace. It is superficial and a bit clunky, the argument is sustained on the level of a 6, but it lacks adequate discussion of significance to score it here.
LL	6	A strong 6 that discusses devices and draws reasonable conclusions about significance; it is close to a 7 but lacks in sophistication.
LLL	9	Sophisticated organization supports a perceptive reading and persuasive discussion of the poetic devices and language. Though it is not a “top flight” 9, the considerable insight and extraordinarily good writing (the effortlessly subtle integration of text) is not diminished by the discussion of only two techniques. Even what might be considered “misreadings” (using blanket/quilt interchangeably, suggesting a shift in POV in paragraph three) aren’t really errors because they are defended.
BB	8	This is “the” 8! It’s not a “top drawer” 8, but it is very good. The strong introduction, strong command of language, and strong conception of idea makes this an 8, especially in regard to its “writerliness.”
W	6	An idea-driven essay with promise, this thoughtful essay lacks support and its analysis is underdeveloped.
N	7 (6?)	Because of its various mechanical, organization, and even structural problems, this essay might appear as a 6; however, it eventually amasses enough evidence and support to (by “reading supportively”) climb to a 7.
SSS	7	A strong 7 for its effective organization and textual support, which is used well and often...perhaps too often, as the essay is a bit underdeveloped.
JJJ	7	This essay closely fits the rubric description of a 7: though it is at times too general (“enjambment suggests...”), it offers impressive correlation between the quilt colors and the family; page two is especially 7-ish.
UU	3	This essay tries to go to analysis...but never makes it. A 3 for its brevity.
RRR	5	Despite its confident prose and well-organized approach, this is a superficial discussion of tone and structure, this essay focuses more on meaning than analysis of techniques. Even though paragraph four is fuller, the entire essay is really much ado about “nothing”—it fails to offer meaningful conclusions from the observations.
YY	6	The very strong thesis effectively promises analysis, which is somewhat detailed in the discussion of the three techniques. The support is competent and well-written. However, it’s occasionally plodding and inaccurate statements prevent it from being a 7 or higher.
MMM	8 (7?)	A very good paper, especially stylistically, that is well-conceived and built on a very strong thesis. Because this essay references only one blanket, and because the full 8-ishness doesn’t appear until page two, some argued that it lacked the sophistication of an 8 and felt comfortable giving it a 7.
RR	4	A solid 4: though paragraph three begins to go further, it remains observational and overly simplistic.
PPP	9	A beautifully written (“soaring”) 9: despite a few minor problems with accuracy, this essay is controlled, often graceful, in its writing and makes for a pleasant read.