Name: ENG 381 World Literature

Number: Midterm 1

1- What do we mean when we say “world literature”? (1 mark)

World literature is less a collection of texts than a network of circulation. We say that a work has an effective life as part of “world literature” when it circulates beyond its local culture.

2- Answer the questions about the following passage: (4 marks)

*Let yourself be silently drawn*

*by the stronger pull of what you really love.*

1. Who is the author? Rumi
2. Analyze the two lines. Rumi was a Sufi mystic. The passage here is from his poem “An Empty Garlic,” in which he admonishes those who waste their lives in pursuit of worldly gain to the detriment of their spiritual well-being. This couplet concludes the poem. Rumi resigns himself to accepting that people will ultimately follow their passions, and that a pursuit of the divine can only materialize if it is motivated by love.

3- What are the five elements of a short story or novel? Explain what each one means.

(5 marks)

1. Plot: the sequence of events in a narrative
2. Character: the actors in a narrative
3. Theme: the main ideas or concepts within the narrative
4. Conflict: tension within the narrative, whether that tension is external or internal

4- Provide an analysis of the following passage, which is from the ending of Chinua

Achebe’s “Marriage is a Private Affair”: (5 marks)

He leaned against a window and looked out. The sky was overcast with heavy black clouds and a high wind began to blow filling the air with dust and dry leaves. It was one of those rare occasions when even Nature takes a hand in a human fight. Very soon it began to rain, the first rain in the year. It came down in large sharp drops and was accompanied by the lightning and thunder which mark the end of season. Okeke was trying hard not to think of his two grandsons.

5- Answer the questions about the following passage: (5 marks)

Whole field of

rice seedlings planted—I part

from the willow

1. Who is the author?
2. Analyze the poem.