

**English 9
Literature Test
Study Guide**

Your test on Wednesday, 5 September, will cover "The Utterly Perfect Murder," and "American History." Please review your notes and the stories to help you prepare for the test.

Be prepared to know the definition of the following literary terms, and FIND EXAMPLES of these in the stories:

- external conflict
- internal conflict
- rising action
- climax

Be familiar with the following characters:

From "The Utterly Perfect Murder"

- Ralph Underhill
- Doug (the narrator)

From "American History"

- Elena
- Elena's mother
- Eugene
- Eugene's mother
- John F. Kennedy (remember that the story is set on the day Kennedy is shot in 1963)
- Mr. DePalma
- the Jewish couple
- be familiar with characteristics of El Building

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Doug thinks he has many reasons to kill Ralph Underhill. List three reasons on your paper.

What surprises Doug about Ralph's adult appearance?

How does Doug "murder" Ralph Underhill?

What else does Doug do before leaving his hometown?

When and where does "American History" take place?

List three characteristics of El Building.

Where does Elena go to look down at the house next to El Building?

Who moves into the house next to El Building, and how does Elena feel about her new neighbor?

How do the adults react to the news that President Kennedy was shot? How do the children react differently?

What special reason does Elena have for being excited on the day President Kennedy is shot?

What attracted Elena to Eugene?

Why doesn't Elena get to visit Eugene?

What role does racism play in this story? Find examples of racism in the story.