

Martin Eden Essay Final

Prepare all questions. I will choose two for you to write.

1. The novel concerns itself with a character's increasing identification of himself as an artist. Discuss the impulses--natural and cultural--that drive him and analyze the forces that seem to be working against the artist in London's depiction of American society.
2. Discuss the thematic relevance of Martin's relationship with Russ Brissenden.
3. What do we learn about the relationships between men and women at the turn of the century from London's detailed depiction of the relationship of Martin and Ruth?
4. You are an experienced waterfront psychotherapist. Martin Eden comes into your office, feeling low. As he tells you his story, what do you pick up as warning signs that he is headed for a breakdown? Outline and examine the steps that lead Martin to his last act of pure will.
5. London makes use of many symbols that would later be termed "Freudian" when discussing the novel's theme of the relationship between Flesh and Spirit. Discuss.
6. In London's short fiction we have often seen him deal with the issue of race. Discuss what appears to you to be London's perspective on a topic that continues to trouble contemporary American society.