**Literary Terms—**Be familiar with the following literary terms and understand how they specifically pertain to *Alas, Babylon*.

Setting

Tone

Mood

Diction

Protagonist

Antagonist

Round Character

Flat Character

Static Character

Dynamic Character

Archetypal Character

Stock Character

Foil Character

Characterization

* Direct
* Indirect

Elements of Plot

* Exposition
* Narrative Hook
* Inciting Incident
* Conflict & Types of Conflicts
* Rising Action
* Complications
* Climax
* Anti-Climax
* Falling Action
* Resolution
* Denouement
* Catharsis

Point of View

* 1st Person
* 2nd Person
* 3rd Person Objective
* 3rd Person Limited
* 3rd Person Omniscient

Theme

Irony

* Situational
* Verbal
* Dramatic

Allusions

Symbolism

**Further Analysis—The Growth of a Character**

1. What incidents before The Day might make Randy seem lazy or frivolous?
2. What causes the change in Randy’s behavior?
3. How does Randy first begin asserting his will?
4. What is the turning point in Randy’s leadership?
5. What formal and informal backing does Randy’s leadership receive?
6. How does Randy’s attitude toward the women in his life change?

**The Question of Defense**

1. In what ways is the Civil Defense planning for Fort Repose inadequate?
2. How well does Randy prepare for the emergency? Which of his preparations prove to be wise?
3. What errors in preparation does Randy make?
4. What should state, federal, and local governments and private citizens have done to provide a better system of civil defense?
5. What is the message about Civil Defense that the author wants to get across in the novel?

**The Novel’s Contemporary Relevance**

1. Randy’s attitude toward blacks is liberal by 1950 standards, yet he makes most of the decisions for his black friends, Blacks treat the whites rather deferentially, and play minor roles in the novel. Does this weaken the novel for current readers?
2. How might a writer treat this same situation today?
3. The women in this book seem subordinate to the men. The men’s minds and bodies a challenged as they protect their friends and families, improvise equipment, heal the sick, and organize a defense and plan for the future. The women, on the other hand, spend most of their time managing the household and acting as support staff for the men. Is this inevitable under these circumstances or would women be likely to make a greater variety of contributions?
4. Since Alas, Babylon was written, our Civil Defense efforts have changed, our weapons stockpile has mushroomed, our defensive and offensive technologies have become much more sophisticated, and our efforts to negotiate arms limitations have taken many turns. How does all this affect your reaction to the book?
5. Should a nuclear war occur today, how would the destruction it caused compare to the destruction depicted in Alas, Babylon?
6. Discuss the universality of the particular challenges the Bragg party faces. In what ways do their experiences suggest ideas pertinent to your own life?