

# **Thomas Wolfe, *Writing to paint a portrait of N.C. life***

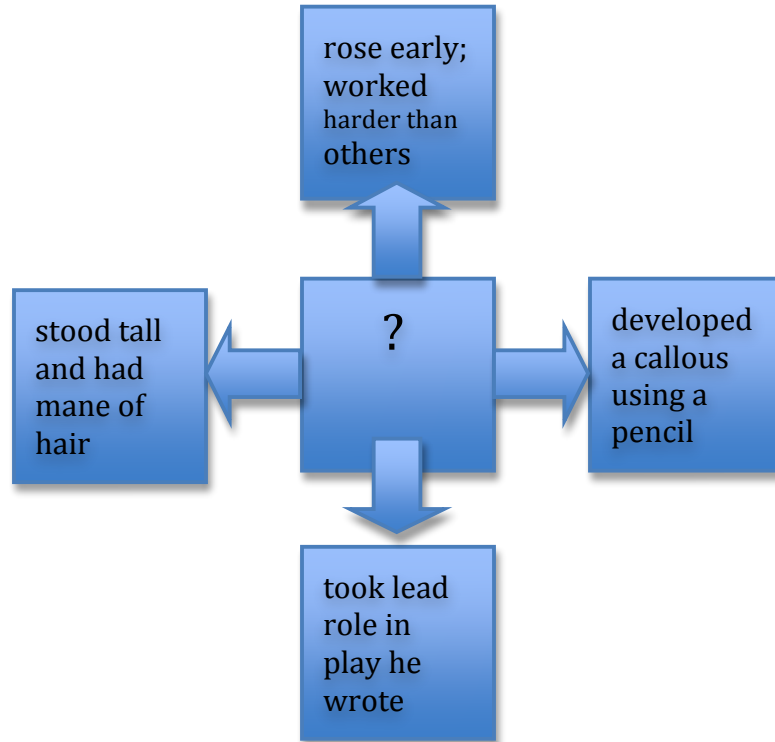
**By Rylan Miller**

## **STUDY GUIDE**

1. What prediction did Thomas Wolfe make that came true?
  - A. He would become a celebrated playwright.
  - B. He would travel internationally to speak about his writing.
  - C. His portrait would hang eventually in the Old West building at UNC-CH.
  - D. The University of Chapel Hill would honor him with an award named for him.
  
2. Which characterizes Wolfe?
  - A. He planned to return to his hometown to live.
  - B. He agreed with his sister's evaluation of his book.
  - C. No one in his hometown recognized his skills as a writer.
  - D. His looks and actions distinguished him from other college students.
  
3. Which book is Wolfe's best known?
  - A. *Third Night*
  - B. *Of Time and the River*
  - C. *Look Homeward Angel*
  - D. *The Return of Buck Gavin*
  
4. Which is Wolfe's hometown?
  - A. Asheville
  - B. Chapel Hill
  - C. Charlotte
  - D. Raleigh

5. If a reader understands that Wolfe wrote about his own life, where would he most likely set a novel after *Of Time and the River*?
- A. Altamont
  - B. Asheville
  - C. Europe
  - D. New York
6. How did Wolfe's family members respond to *Look Homeward Angel*?
- A. They encouraged him to return home.
  - B. They did not approve of how he portrayed them.
  - C. They welcomed attention to their family and town.
  - D. They encouraged him to write more books about their lives.
7. Which is the best interpretation of the figurative language, "Wolfe's writing career took off in 1929"?
- A. He lost his teaching position.
  - B. His sister became ashamed of him.
  - C. His health problems affected his writing.
  - D. He had more opportunities to publish his writing.
8. What is most ironic about Wolfe's fame?
- A. His university named a scholarship for him.
  - B. His portrait hangs in the Old West building at UNC-CH.
  - C. His home in Asheville became a museum honoring him.
  - D. His second book about Asheville received more attention than his first.

9. What conclusion about Wolfe does the writer draw from the following?



- A. eccentric
- B. observant
- C. praiseworthy
- D. successful

Words to know: Match the words with synonyms. Check the text to make sure the synonyms make sense in the context of the profile.

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| __1. influx    | A. worth        |
| __2. eccentric | B. arrival      |
| __3. hiatus    | C. interruption |
| __4. merit     | D. outflow      |
|                | E. unusual      |
|                | F. resumption   |

## EVALUATIONS

Respond to the prompts in one page (or more). If needed, conduct research to obtain additional facts to support your analyses.

1. Describe the many ways that Wolfe demonstrated a passion for writing throughout his life. Draw conclusions about his commitment to writing. How does Wolfe's commitment to writing compare to yours?
2. Read *Look Homeward Angel*. What do you think of the book? Do you agree with/ understand the objections of Wolfe's sister and family? Do you agree with/ understand his defense of the book?

## NEWS CONNECTIONS:

1. Search current newspapers and archived editions for reviews of books. Use the models to write your own book reviews.
2. Writers base their stories on life experiences. Select stories from the news that might be starting points for fictional accounts.
3. Comics deal in make-believe, but the stories pertain to real life. Choose comics and explain what is make believe and what is true to life in the characters, settings and plots of the comics.
4. In news stories, find references to scholarships and other ways that universities honor graduates and those who support the universities in other ways.

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