**Unit 4: The Age of Realism** Name: **KEY**

English III

*Refer to textbook pages 474-481*

Between 1850 and 1914, America changed from a **decentralized**, mostly **agricultural** nation to the modern **industrial nation** we know today. (p. 474)

I. Historical Background (p. 474)

A. Prelude to War

1. In the North

a. **Commerce** was king

b. The Industrial **Revolution** and cheap **transportation** turned northern cities into centers of **bustling** activity

c. Education, **banking**, science, and **reform** **movements** were topics of concern

d. **Imiigration** was changing the **face** of the North

2. The South

a. Slower-**paced** region of **plantations** and small farms

b. Sugar, **rice**, and **tobacco** were important crops

c. The South believed its **lifeblood** depended on **slavery**

3. Fugitive Slave Act

a. Passed in **1850**

b. Required all **citizens** - of both free and **slave** states – to **catch** runaway **slaves**

c. Southerners saw law as **just**

d. Northerners considered it an **outrage**

B. Expanding America (pp. 475-476)

1. Homestead Act of **1862**

a. Provided **160** acres to anyone who would **live** on land and make minimal **improvements**

b. Shifted westward **movement** into high gear

1) Half a **million** farmers, tens of thousands of **African** **Americans** staked claims on the Great **Plains**

2) **Miners** went west by the **thousands**

3) others moved west to become **cattle ranchers**

4) boosted by completion of first **transcontinental** railroad in **1869**

C. A Changing American Society (p. 477)

1. With introduction of **electricity** in the**1880**s, the second **Industrial** **Revolution** began in earnest.

2. **Electricity** replaced **steam** power in manufacturing

3. Modern-life trappings appeared: electric **lights**, telephones, **automobiles**, motion **pictures**, and phonographs

4. **Skyscrapers**, department **stores**, and mass **transportation** became part of the city **life** - as did noise, traffic **jams**, **air** pollution, **crime**, and **slums**

5. Industrial and **urban** growth fueled by **immigration**

6. **Child** labor became the norm among the poor **working** class

7. “The **Gilded** Age” - dubbed by Mark **Twain** - implied a thin **veneer** of **glitter** over something of poor **quality**

II. Literature of the Period (p. 478)

A. Oh, Freedom!

1. Slaves developed a **unique** style of **music**, the black **spiritual**

2. Frederick **Douglass**

a. escaped **slavery** and settled in the **North** where he became a persuasive **orator** against **slavery**

b. Published *Narrative of the* ***Life*** *of Frederick* ***Douglass*** in 1845 – his autobiography indicting **slavery**

B. Wartime Voices (p. 478)

1. Thousands of **diaries**, letters, **journals** and **speeches** were produced during the Civil War

2. President Abraham Lincoln

a. one of the greatest **masters** of the language at mid-century

b. His **speeches** and letters are models of **clarity** and **eloquence**

c. Gettysburg Address, a mere **ten** sentences in length, has become a classic **expression** of the meaning of American **democracy**

C. Frontier Voices – writers represented the **Midwest** and Far **West** for the first time (p. 479)

D. Realism and Naturalism

1. Realism (p. 480)

a. Began after the **Civil** War

b. Writers focused on portraying “**real** **life**” as **ordinary** people lived it

2. Naturalism (pp. 480-481)

a. An important literary **offshoot** of Realism

b. Writers depicted real **people** in real **situations**

c. Believed that **forces** larger than the **individual** - nature, **fate**, heredity – shaped individual **destiny**

d. The reality writers depicted was harsh; it was a vision rooted in **war**, in the **frontier**, and in America's growing **cities**