

AP English Literature Reading Record Card

Name _____

One of the major problems confronting students taking the Advanced Placement Exam in Literature in the free-response question that requires students to choose a *novel* or *play* from their own reading experience on which to write their essay. The question will usually apply to many works but not to all works. For example, the 2006 exam asked students to write about a novel or play in which a country setting plays a significant role.

The open question typically focuses more on content than the poetry and prose essays (which focus on style as well as meaning). It will focus on theme, relationship of a part (specific incident) to the whole (entire work,) setting, characterization, or point of view.

The reading record cards will serve as a review system to prepare for the exam. Keep them in your class notebook so you can easily access them in the spring. Follow the form as closely as possible. Be brief. Use only the front and back of this sheet.

Title of Work:

Original Date of publication:

Author:

Literary period of author

Setting/Occasion: time/place/current situation

Context: Where is narrator?

Major events: scenes/places/times or brief synopsis

Genesis: *What* made narrator tell this story? What encouraged writing to happen?

Speaker/narrator:

Who is voice behind text? Is narrator reliable? What is speaker's attitude toward subject and events in book?

Other major characters and brief descriptions:

Recurring motifs/archetypes:

Motifs:

Archetypes:

Style / figures of speech / rhetorical techniques: recurring examples or patterns and the significance or effect on work as a whole (characterization, theme, etc.), major symbols?

Structure: How did author organize text? Chapters? Headings? Subheadings? Explain how organization or structure is important to author's achieving purpose – or how it is *not*.

Two important (but brief) passages with explication/justification for your choices:

Passage 1:

Passage 2:

Theme/meaning/purpose: What does author want reader “to get out of” the book?

Personal response/other comments or important info: