Independent Reading—1st Quarter Prompts

You will be given 60 minutes to write an in-class essay on your choice novel. You may use your novel, annotations, and an outline. You may respond to any of the following prompts:

1. The significance of a title such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is easy to discover. However, in other works (for example, *The Lord of the Flies*) the full significance of the title only becomes apparent gradually. In a well-organized essay, describe how the author develops and reveals the significance of the title. Do not merely summarize the plot.

2. A character's attempt to recapture the past is important in many plays, novels, and poems, viewing the past with such feelings as reverence, bitterness, or longing. Use clear evidence from your choice novel to show how the character's view of the past is used to develop a theme in the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

3. “In many novels a character has a misconception of himself or his world. Destroying or perpetuating this illusion contributes to a central theme of the text.” Choose a character from your choice novel and write an essay in which you consider the following:

(1) What the character’s illusion is and how it differs from reality as presented in the novel.

(2) How the destruction or perpetuation of the illusion develops a theme of the novel.

Do not merely summarize the plot.

4. In many books, some of the most significant events are mental or psychological; for example, awakenings, discoveries, changes in consciousness. In a well-organized essay, describe how the author manages to give these internal events the importance usually associated with external action. Do not merely summarize the plot.

5. In some works of literature, childhood and adolescence are portrayed as times graced by innocence and a sense of wonder; in other works, they are depicted as times of tribulation and terror. Focusing on your choice novel, explain how its representation of childhood or adolescence shapes the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.