

Thirty years of AP Open Questions! (condensed)

***IMPORTANT:** ALL of the questions below ask you to:

- Show HOW what you're discussing relates to the work's over-all significance
- Choose a work of literary merit on or off the list provided
- Avoid plot summary!

General:

1. Significance of a title
2. The author's manipulation of time
3. A predominant allusion in a work
4. Particular social attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to change
5. Opening scene of a work
6. Conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter
7. How contrasting places (for example, two countries, two houses) represent opposed forces or ideas
8. Arguments for or against the work's relevance in today's world
9. Similarities and differences in a sequence of parallel or recurring events in a work
10. Implausible or unrealistic incident or character - how it relates to the realistic elements in the work
11. Character who confronts a mystery - identify the mystery and its investigation
12. Internal events (mental/psychological) - how they impact external action in a work

Scene:

1. A scene or scenes of violence
2. A scene of social occasion (wedding, funeral, party...) – how it shows the values of the character /society
4. A line or passage in a work and the reasons for its significance and effectiveness
5. How and why an ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work

Based on quotes about literature:

1. "Spiritual reassessment or moral reconciliation" evident in the ending of a work
2. A work which you initially considered conventional, but now see as "uncivilized free and wild thinking"
3. Explain the "pleasure and disquietude" experienced by the readers of a particular work
4. A scene or character which awakens "thoughtful laughter" in the reader
5. How and why important elements of a work are "distorted"

Character:

1. How and why a particular immoral character in a work makes us react sympathetically
2. Characters alienated from society because of gender, race, class, or creed - how that alienation reveals society's assumptions or moral values
3. Character whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires or influences
4. Character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, but has a significant presence
5. The nature of a character's villainy
6. Character's conflict between a private passion and a social responsibility
7. A conventional or stereotyped character's function in achieving the author's purpose
8. A rebel's conflict and its ethical implications for the individual and society
9. The function of a confidant/e in a work

from Claudia Felske on the AP ListServ