

British Literature Essay Options

Due 9/13 – Murder in the Cathedral

Option 1:

Scenario: You are asked to choose Tri-County Co-op's spring play production. Argue for the performance of *Murder in the Cathedral* as the best choice.

Option 2:

Discuss how Eliot uses metaphor and symbolism to convey his message.

Option 3:

There is a drastic difference in Eliot's writings after his conversion to Christianity. In what ways did your decision to follow Christ change your life?

Due 9/20 – Mere Christianity

Option 1:

Lewis says in the "Practical Conclusion" chapter that "*Ninety-nine percent of the things you believe are believed on authority. I believe there is such a place as New York. I have not seen it myself. I could not prove by abstract reasoning that there must be such a place....A man who jibbed at authority in other things as some people do in religion would have to be content to know nothing all his life.*"

Discuss your thoughts on this reasoning. Have you ever thought about the fact that you believe most things simply on others authority? Does it not, then, follow that it makes sense that we believe Christianity on the authority of the apostles? Does this thought make you more comfortable to share why you believe with those who don't?

Option 2:

In the first "Faith" chapter, Lewis talks about how we need to be participating in daily prayers and Bible readings in order to keep our faith alive in our minds because we need to be continually reminded of what we believe. He says that most people that leave the faith are not reasoned out of it by an honest argument, rather they simply drift away.

What are your thoughts on this, and are you participating in a daily prayer/Bible reading time? If not, what goal will you set to accomplish this??

Option 3:

I highlighted so many thoughts in this book! There were so many great points! It was so hard for me to pick just two as essay options. I wonder if you felt the same? If you did, why don't you pick *your* favorite point/thought/question from the book and write your essay on it.

Due 10/4 - Frankenstein

Option 1:

“Alas! Victor, when falsehood can look so like the truth, who can assure themselves of certain happiness?” -Frankenstein Ch. 9

Discuss your thoughts on this quote.

Option 2:

“The sight of the awful and majestic in nature had indeed always had the effect of solemnizing my mind, and causing me to forget the passing cares of life.”

Describe a time in your life when “the awful and/or majestic in nature” helped you to see the bigger picture in life and/or help get your mind off your troubles.

Option 3:

Shelley uses Dr. Frankenstein as a vehicle to make a statement about Western culture. What do you think that statement is?

Due 10/18 – Jane Eyre

Option 1:

What is/are the main theme/themes in *Jane Eyre*? How are they developed?

Option 2:

Jane Eyre is one of the most unusual protagonists in English literary history. What makes her so unique?

Due 11/8 – Vicar of Wakefield

Option 1:

I read a quote that said “The main difference (between guilt and shame) is that with shame, you see yourself as a bad person rather than a good person who has done something bad. Shame is unhealthy, especially if it continues without being resolved. It only leads to further loss of self-esteem if you don’t resolve it as quickly as possible.”

Re-read the last paragraph of Chapter 15. This is a tough paragraph. What are your thoughts on its meaning? How do you differentiate guilt and shame? Is one healthier than the other?

Option 2:

Dr. Charles Primrose, the pastor presented in *Vicar*, is a complicated character. He clearly exhibits Christian tendencies. Whether or not he was a committed Christian is debatable. From what you’ve learned of him so far, what do you think? Defend your answer with an example from the text.

Due 12/9 – Robinson Crusoe

Option 1:

Crusoe says towards the end of Chapter 8 that to “find deliverance from sin is a much greater blessing than deliverance from affliction.” What does this mean to you? Discuss your thoughts.

Option 2:

Re-read the paragraph in chapter 12 that begins, “In a word, the nature and experience of things..” This paragraph talks about covetousness and how having a lot of really valuable possessions that do you no good is pointless. Discuss your thoughts.

Option 3:

Crusoe has a moment in chapter 15 where he loses all of his fairly new religious hope after seeing the footprint in the sand. This reminds me of the Israelites in the wilderness having just crossed the Red Sea and then very soon after losing all hope. Why do you think we forget all that God has done for us in the past and lose hope so quickly/easily?