

**2016 AP Literature Exam
reading feedback
FRQ₃
intentional deception**

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AP = Address the Prompt.

ADDRESS:

- o (v) concern oneself with
- o (v) direct one's efforts towards

PROMPT:

- o (n) encouragement to speak
- o (n) cause for action

AP = Address the Prompt.

Many works of literature contain a character who intentionally deceives others. The character's dishonesty may be intended either to help or to hurt. Such a character, for example, may choose to mislead others for personal safety, to spare someone's feelings, or to carry out a crime.

Choose a novel or play in which a character deceives others. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the motives for that character's deception and discuss how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

You may choose a work from the list below or another work of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

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ESSAY FOCUS:

- o insightful theme
- o complex ideas (motivation and/or consequences of deception)
- o development of character NOT plot
- o details AND significance of deception
- o effective writing
- o NOT rigid adherence to directions

Annotate the Scoring Guide.

Question 3: Intentional Deception

General Directions: This scoring guide will be useful for most of the essays that you read, but in problematic cases, please consult your table leader. The score that you assign should reflect your judgment of the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, style, and mechanics. **Reward the writers for what they do well.** The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by one point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a three (3).

9-8 These essays offer a well-focused and persuasive analysis of the motives for the character's deception and how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Using apt and specific textual support, these essays analyze what motivates the character's deception and how the work as a whole is shaped by it. Although these essays may not be error-free, they make a strong case for their interpretation and discuss the literary work with significant insight and understanding. Essays scored a nine (9) reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored an eight (8).

7-6 These essays offer a reasonable analysis of the motives for the character's deception and how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. These essays analyze what motivates the character's deception and how the work as a whole is shaped by it. While these papers have insight and understanding, their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, and/or less specific in supporting detail than that of the 9-8 essays. Essays scored a seven (7) present better-developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a six (6).

Embrace the *spirit* of the Scoring Guide.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

- o “quality of the essay as a whole”
- o “exceptionally well-written essay”
- o **“Reward the writers for what they do well.”**

Invisible Man 9 essay

- o discusses deception of the narrator by Dr. Bledsoe and the Brotherhood and then exposes the narrator's own deception (donning the sunglasses), which leads to his epiphany and thematic meaning
- o THESIS: "The novel traces the journey of the nameless narrator as he overcomes his own blindness to the deceptive reality of his world and is able to finally clearly see the true motives of those who are around him. The deceptions in the novel serve as obstacles the narrator faces before he is able to complete his journey of seeking clarity and self-discovery."

Death of Salesman 7 essay

- o perceptive focus on theme but with less specific supporting detail and less controlled organization
- o INTRODUCTION: “Often, deception is chosen because it seems easy. Choosing to deceive allows people to escape the truth when the truth feels too painful to bear. However, deception can prove to be even more painful than the truth, especially when deceiving others leads to deceiving yourself.”

The Great Gatsby 9 essay

- o discusses Gatsby's layers of deception (of Jake, Daisy, the surrounding society, and himself) with a voice and style that was rewarded
- o CONCLUSION: "I stated earlier that dishonest people typically lie in order to better themselves, and even expressed that Gatsby didn't fit this mold—and that was me lying to you. I said Gatsby loved Daisy. I highly doubt he did, but he was so fascinated with the idea of her, like a fly to an electric zapper. He lied to himself in order to get closer to the false idea of happiness, and he ended up getting shocked because he allowed his lie to consume his life and draw him into a dangerous world of superficiality where he was bound to get killed—and certainly never to find happiness."

Students' Text Choices

most popular choices

- o 19% *Hamlet*
- o 14% *The Great Gatsby*
- o 8% *Othello*
- o 6% *The Kite Runner*
- o 3% *The Crucible*
- o 3% *Heart of Darkness*
- o 2.5% *A Doll House*
- o 2.5% *Crime and Punishment*

most consistently
successful choices

- o *All the King's Men*
- o *Atonement*
- o *Invisible Man*
- o *King Lear*
- o *Les Miserables*
- o *Remains of the Day*
- o *The Things They Carried*

Feel free to contact me.

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