

AP English Literature and Composition
Unit 1: Monstrosity and Magnanimity
Free-Response Question 3 prompt options for choice novel
(*A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Things They Carried*, or *Watership Down*)

1. In many works of literature, a physical journey—the literal movement from one place to another—plays a central, and often symbolic, role. Choose a novel, play, or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole.

2. It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character who has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

3. In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake. Choose a work of literary merit that confronts the reader or audience with a brutal scene or parallel scenes. In a well-organized essay, explain how the scene or scenes contribute to the meaning of the complete work. Avoid plot summary.

4. Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. Choose a novel or a play that contrasts two such places. Write an essay explaining how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work.

For each topic, rewrite the prompt as a series of questions, delineating each task you need to accomplish in your essay.

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