

Select one of the following prompts and write an introduction to your essay. You will be doing this assignment with your study partner/group. Your introduction will be graded as follows:

- \_\_\_/ 10 points    Answers the entire prompt
- \_\_\_/5 points    Addresses a theme appropriate to the text
- \_\_\_/2 points    Written in literary present
- \_\_\_/2 points    Uses both the author's name and the title of the work
- \_\_\_/1 point    Title of the work is underlined

- 1) "The true test of comedy is that it shall awaken thoughtful laughter."  
Choose a novel, play, or long poem in which a scene or character awakens "thoughtful laughter" in the reader. Write an essay in which you show why this laughter is "thoughtful" and how it contributes to the meaning of the work.
  
- 2) In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present activities, attitudes, or values of a character. Choose a novel or play in which a character must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.