The Picture of Dorian Gray

AP Prompts

*1981, Question 3 • (Suggested time -- 45 minutes) • (33 1/3 per cent)*

The meaning of some literary works is often enhanced by sustained allusion to myths, the Bible, or other works of literature. Select a literary work that makes use of such a sustained reference. Then write a well-organized essay in which you explain the allusion that predominates in the work and analyze how it enhances the work’s meaning.

You may select a work from the following list or choose another of comparable literary merit on which to base your essay. Be sure that the work you choose is appropriate for the question.

2002, Question 3 • (Suggested time—40 minutes)

Morally ambiguous characters—characters whose behavior discourages readers form identifying them as purely evil or purely good—are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

Choose a work from the list below or another novel or play of comparable literary merit.