

Literature Essay One (*Imagery/Symbols*)

Timed Essay: 40 minutes

Adapted from AP Exam essay prompt: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap18-frq-english-literature.pdf>

After drafting each timed essay, you will read it aloud to your instructor and receive feedback for revision; you will then revise it and submit a final draft.

Many works of literature feature characters who have been given a literal or figurative gift. The gift may be an object, or it may be a quality such as uncommon beauty, significant social position, great mental or imaginative faculties, or extraordinary physical powers. Yet this gift is often also a burden or a handicap. Select a character from a literary work who has been given a gift that is both an advantage and a problem. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing the complex nature of the gift and how the gift contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Do not merely summarize the plot. In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

You may choose a work from the list below (which we have read in this year's class so far) or one of the works we read in last year's British Literature class.

Atrahasis

Epic of Gilgamesh

From the Bible:

- Genesis
- Leviticus
- Deuteronomy
- 1 Kings
- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Jonah
- Hosea

Homeric Hymn to Demeter

Homeric Hymn to Hermes

Euripides, *Bacchae*

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Sappho

- "Star of Evening"
- "Cypris and you Néréids, bring my brother"
- "I have a daughter, golden"
- "The Moon is set"
- "Come to me here from Crete"
- "For me"
- "One Girl"
- "Please Abanthis"
- "It's no use"
- "Virginity, virginity"
- "He is more than a hero"
- "To an army wife, in Sardis"
- "Honestly, I would like to die"
- "Artfully adorned Aphrodite"
- "Girls, you be ardent"
- "I have a daughter, golden"
- "When you lie dead"
- "Death is an evil"