AP Lit—Mon Feb 22

On Tuesday, I’d like to do a small group/whole group discussion in which we develop effective shared inquiry questions for next week. I’d like to be able to divide you into 3 groups (which will be your shared inquiry groups) and have you develop several potential shared inquiry questions that will be posed to ANOTHER group. Your goal here is not to be tricky and set another group up for failure but, rather, poise them for success by putting just as much thought and close text reading into your question development as you will into your discussion preparation. The end goal in working on question development is to give you practice that is relevant to developing and supporting precise, substantive claims in writing (in essays, AP exams, projects, etc) as well.

To that end, there is prep work to be done before we get to question development. There is “debriefing” on the play that needs to happens since we just finished at the end of class on Friday and felt a bit like we’d been run over by a truck. We need to take a day to sort out initial information about the play. I’m confident that you can do that without me.

In smallish groups, you should take the time to clarify and articulate the following:

What is the play “about?” What observations or statements does it attempt to make?

What is the relevant U.S. history that needs to be understood and appreciated to see what this play is doing (consider not just traditional history but also economics, sociology, psychology, popular culture, etc…make all that good THS Social Studies knowledge work for you!)?

What is the status of the world of the play (the stasis) at the beginning of each act?

“Who” is each character (in Honors Dramaturgy we like to ask this as “What is this character’s “deal?”)? Consider things such as: what is the character’s history? What is the character’s relationship to other characters? What does this character want and what is he/she willing to do to get it?

After Independent Reading, make groups and use the above questions as guides for debriefing discussions. On Tuesday, we’ll go right to the Shared Inquiry groups to begin developing questions. If there are still any outstanding confusions about the basics of the play, I can answer them for you on Tuesday.

Work and think hard!