

**2011 AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**  
**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)**

**Question 3**

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

In *The Writing of Fiction* (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following.

At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the *illuminating incident* to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity.

Choose a novel or play that you have studied and write a well-organized essay in which you describe an “illuminating” episode or moment and explain how it functions as a “casement,” a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

You may select a work from the list below or another appropriate novel or play of comparable literary merit.

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
*As I Lay Dying*  
*The Awakening*  
*Beloved*  
*Catch-22*  
*The Catcher in the Rye*  
*Dr. Faustus*  
*Emma*  
*The Good Soldier*  
*Heart of Darkness*  
*M. Butterfly*  
*Major Barbara*  
*The Mayor of Casterbridge*  
*Mrs. Dalloway*  
*Native Son*

*Oedipus Rex*  
*Othello*  
*Passing*  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  
*The Portrait of a Lady*  
*Pride and Prejudice*  
*The Remains of the Day*  
*The Scarlet Letter*  
*A Soldier's Play*  
*A Streetcar Named Desire*  
*Surfacing*  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
*Twelfth Night*  
*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*  
*Who Has Seen the Wind*

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**