

2000 AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 3

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

Many works of literature not readily identified with the mystery or detective story genre nonetheless involve the investigation of a mystery. In these works, the solution to the mystery may be less important than the knowledge gained in the process of its investigation. Choose a novel or play in which one or more of the characters confront a mystery. Then write an essay in which you identify the mystery and explain how the investigation illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

You may choose a work from the list below or another novel or play of similar quality.

Absalom, Absalom

Agnes of God

Alias Grace

All the King's Men

Bleak House

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Crime and Punishment

Equus

Fifth Business

Frankenstein

A Gathering of Old Men

Ghosts

Great Expectations

The Good Soldier

The Great Gatsby

Hamlet

Heart of Darkness

Hedda Gabler

In the Lake of the Woods

Jane Eyre

Joe Turner's Come and Gone

Lord Jim

The Mayor of Casterbridge

Monkey Bridge

Oedipus Rex

The Remains of the Day

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Snow Falling on Cedars

Song of Solomon

Tom Jones

The Trial

Trifles

The Turn of the Screw

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

END OF EXAMINATION