English 12 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-300-500 words (4-5 paragraphs).

-Using one of the topics below, come up with an **ARGUMENT** about your novel.

-Remember to have a dynamic intro and an insightful conclusion

Essay tips

1) Write in the PRESENT TENSE!!!

2) INTEGRATE YOUR QUOTES (at all times attempt to work the quote into your sentences smoothly)AND DISCUSS WHAT THEY PROVE!!!!!!

3) Don’t just summarize the plot. Analyze how your examples prove your thesis.

4) Have a detailed and focused thesis:

**Poor:** Amir changes throughout the novel. (Why is this poor?)

**Strong:** In the novel *The Kite Runner* Amir changes from a selfish and immature child into a courageous and honorable man. Three things that lead to this transformation are: he sees his father in a new light as he gets older, he moves to America which gives him a change in perspective, and finally, he is presented with an opportunity to make up for his past mistakes which requires incredible personal risk. (Why is this strong?)

5) Proofread your work! 1 minute of extra effort could make the difference between an A and a B

6) Please don’t use the word “major” or “majorly” (it is too colloquial). Instead, use significant/significantly or defining or dominant

-Instead of “shows” use “reveals” or “demonstrates” or “portrays”

- Avoid “That quote from the speaker” - instead use “Amir’s statement reveals that the grandmother…”

**Essay Topics**

**The Road**

1. Discuss the internal conflicts between the father and son in The Road. How did external problems cause them?

2. As the father is dying, he tells his son he must go on in order to "carry the fire." When the boy asks if the fire is real, the father says, "It's inside you. It was always there. I can see it" [McCarthy 279]. What is this fire? Why is it so crucial that they not let it die?

3. With direct reference to the novel prove the statement that one must never give up on hope, no matter what the circumstances.

4. How does the father saying to the son “this is what good guys do. They keep trying” relate to the theme of the novel “The Road.”

**A Clockwork Orange**

1. Discuss the role of music in the novel. What relationship does it have to violence? What relationship does it have to the structure of the novel?

2. Using direct references from the novel, explain how the conflicts in “A Clockwork Orange” serve to illustrate the theme.

3. Does Alex really ever change in the novel? Or does he remain a static character?

**The Art of Racing in the Rain**

1. A main motif in the novel is that life is comparable to a race. What symbols exist in the novel? How do they relate to themes of the novel?

2. “You should shine with all of your light, all of the time” is a key passage in the novel. Describe obstacles in the novel the characters face and how they are overcome using this mantra.

3. What philosophical advice does the novel give about how to live and is it valuable to the characters in the novel?

4. Using direct reference to the story, describe a key theme of the novel.

**The Green Mile**

1. In the novel, certain races and people were stereotyped. Who is stereotyped in the novel and how does this relate to the novel’s themes? Discuss a minimum of two characters.

2. With direct reference to the story, explain how John and Paul’s relationship changes throughout the novel.

3. Stephen King uses symbolism to illustrate his themes. Pick any two symbols and explain how they support the themes of the novel.

4. In The Green Mile how do the internal conflicts of the characters affect the outcome of the plot?

**My Sister’s Keeper**

1. Compare and contrast how Kate’s illness affects 2 different members of her family. (example Sarah & Anna or Sarah & Brian etc.)

2. Discuss the ways Anna develops throughout the story.

3. Discuss the differences in the way Sarah approaches her role as a mother towards Kate and Anna. Are these differences justified? Why or why not?

4. How does the quote “morals are more important than ethics and love is more important than law” relate to the Fitzgerald’s in the novel.

5. Anna’s real name is Andromeda, the constellation she’s named after tells the story of a princess who was shackled to a rock as a sacrifice to a sea monster. Explain how the novel uses symbols to develop character using this and other symbols.

6. Discuss how conflicts serve to clarify the themes in the novel.

**Angels and Demons**

1. “If you want to understand today, you must understand yesterday.” Using direct references and examples, explain this quote relates to theme of the novel.

2. What symbols does Dan Brown use to advance the plot foreshadow events that happen later in the novel. How effective are these as a plot device?

3. What is the importance of the concept of “vendetta” in the story.

4. One of the major conflicts in the novel is the debate between science and religion. How does Dan Brown pressure the reader to choose between religion and science through the use of theme, symbols, characters and conflict. (You may choose not to discuss all of those literary elements.)

**Battle Royale**

1. With direct reference to the novel, discuss the following statement: “A person will never truly know how another will act in dire circumstances.”

2. “Kazuo Kiriyoma felt nothing, no guilt, no sorrow and no pity.” Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this mindset in relationship to “the program.”

3. With direct references to the novel, discuss how even in the face of death, love can still prosper.