English 7 – End of the Year Analytical Essay Name:

You recently read two thought-provoking and extremely different texts: *The Miracle Worker* and *The Giver.* Select one of the topics below (or propose a different one!) to use for your final analytical essay of the year.

1. Annie Sullivan is eventually able to teach Helen how to communicate using language. Use evidence from the text to discuss at least three specific qualities that Annie possessed that enabled her to be a successful and effective teacher.

2. Each of the main characters undergoes profound changes by the end of the text. Choose one character and explain, using at least three specific examples from the text, how she or he has changed. (Choose from: Kate, Keller, Annie, Helen or Jonas.)

3. In *The Miracle Worker,* Annie writes, “Obedience is the gateway through which knowledge enters the mind of the child” (Gibson 52). Explain this statement in your own words and describe three moments from the play that support this idea.

4. Identify and discuss the ways that Lois Lowry explores one of the following themes in *The Giver*:

1. The benefits and dangers of “sameness”
2. The importance of memory and history
3. The importance of individuality
4. The importance of knowing the truth / The danger of not knowing the truth
5. The importance of choice

5. *The Giver* is sometimes described as a cautionary tale, a story with a warning. What do you think that Lois Lowry is warning us about? How does this warning connect to the events in the book AND the real world?

6. As we have discussed, there are many books that seem to have borrowed liberally from the ideas and plot structure of *The Giver*. Select one of these books and compare and contrast the details AND central messages of the two texts. Which book is more effective at conveying an important idea?

Regardless of which topic you choose, your essay will follow the same general structure:

* Opening paragraph: broad introduction to the text(s) and the topic; end with a clearly worded claim
* Body: three (or more) paragraphs that provide evidence from the text(s) to support your claim
* Conclusion: summarize your evidence and end with a universal statement

Timeline:

due Wednesday, 5/18: brainstorming sheet

in class on Wednesday and finish for Thursday, 5/19: outline

in class on Thursday and finish for Friday, 5/20: find textual evidence

in class on Friday and due Monday, 5/23: opening paragraph and first body paragraph

in class on Monday and due Tuesday, 5/24: completed draft

in class on Tuesday: peer editing

due Thursday, 5/26: final paper on turnitin.com

Select three topics from the previous page that interest you. You may consider the different themes from question four to be different topics (4A, 4B, 4C, etc.). For each topic, brainstorm and free-write in the space below for 8-10 minutes (25-30 minutes total). Include the topic number at the beginning of each free-write. Use extra paper if necessary.

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