

## May 4-8 Sample Answers

### Book Study Question-of-the-Week May 3<sup>rd</sup>

This week, let's think about the characters in the book you have chosen – choose one that stands out for you. What is he/she like? What is going on in his or her world? What have they done, or how have they reacted to what has happened so far?

Now, think of another character you have met in another book, video game, movie, or any type of text. How are they alike? How are they different?

#### **Assignment:**

*In a short essay, select ONE character in this novel, then compare and contrast him/her to a character you have encountered in another text, of any genre. Consider their circumstances, personalities, action, and anything else you believe is relevant.*

Both J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of The Rings" and J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" are each a series of books in which a battle between forces of good and evil is at the forefront. While both Frodo and Harry have numerous similarities, including finding themselves at the center of the battle between good and evil, the characters are also different.

The first similarity between Harry and Frodo is that both characters are very loyal and loving towards their friends. Both Frodo and Harry rely on the support of their friends to complete the dangerous task at hand. While Ron and Hermione provide Harry with support and guidance, Merry, Pippin, and Sam do the same for Frodo.

Another similarity between Harry and Frodo is that they each have a deep connection with the dark forces that seek to gain control over their respective worlds. While Harry was accidentally made to be a horcrux, which is a storage vessel for a piece of the dark lord's soul, Frodo is the bearer of the ring that possesses the evil of the villain Sauron. Both Harry and Frodo must fight against these dark influences and the darkness within themselves before good can prevail over evil in the stories (In other words, both characters deal with a self vs. self conflict). Furthermore, because of their connection with the forces of evil, they can be easily tracked by their antagonists. While Sauron is drawn to the ring, or rather the ring is drawn to Sauron, Voldemort can sense the piece of his soul that is within Harry.

One significant difference between the two characters is that Harry has abilities beyond the average wizard. Frodo has no abilities beyond what is average for a hobbit. Harry is often described as being a brilliant wizard, while Gandalf specifically tells Frodo that he was not chosen for this task because of any great ability. This is important because Frodo's lack of ambition to be great or powerful allows him to resist the influence that the ring seeks to have over him. He is ordinary, and he wants to live an ordinary life. Harry is extraordinary. He must find a balance between using his strengths for good and allowing his ambitions to overtake him.

Rubric:

- Please state which characters you are comparing, and the texts in which they appear, in your introductory sentence.
- Include at least four comparisons or contrasts (similarities or differences – any combination is fine)
- For each similarity or difference, please support with details from both texts.
- This should be at least two paragraphs.