

AP Prompt: Some works of literature use the element of time in a distinct way. The chronological sequence of events may be altered, or time may be suspended or accelerated. Choose a novel, an epic, or a play of recognized literary merit and show how the author's manipulation of time contributes to the effectiveness of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Thinking it through:

1. What is the meaning of the work?
 - a. what is the literal meaning?
 - b. what feeling(s) does the work evoke?

2. How does the author get that meaning across?
 - a. what are the important images
 - b. what specific words or short phrases produce the strongest feelings?
 - c. what elements are in opposition

(Note: In AP-land, "meaning" means the literal sense of what is said **plus** the emotions and passions behind the sense.)