

Writing Prompts

Discussion Question 1

What makes a woman of the past relevant today?

Read Anne Bradstreet's poem "The Author to her Book." How does her struggle in a patriarchal society relate specifically to Cornelia Connelly? What about their frustrations mirror your own life today?

Discussion Question 2

What in our world is invisible to us (as slavery was to Cornelia)?

Read Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail," and an excerpt from Liz Murray's *Homeless to Harvard* and discuss the approach both individuals took to eradicate a social issue. What additional groups do you feel continue to be marginalized or forgotten?

Or

Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a novel or a play in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions or moral values.

Discussion Question 3

What personal qualities are essential to make a difference in the world?

Research the following people: Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks and Steve Jobs. What similarities can you identify amongst the group? Who do you think also made a difference and needs to be added to the group? Why?

Discussion Question 4

How does one recognize one's true vocation?

A recurring theme in literature is the classic war between a passion and responsibility. For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty. Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities.