

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

BIBLIOSCOPIC DIALOGUE: Various stories

Read and discuss a series of literary works selected by your teacher to address the idea of *memory*. On the lines below, summarize the *specific themes* of each title in a few sentences. Your sentences should demonstrate the distinct ways that each title addresses the universal idea.

The Scarlet Letter

Hawthorne's "Custom House" suggests that acquaintance with our ancestors is the key to our present self-knowledge; his historical novel reveals universal truths of man's depravity and subsequent dependence upon divine Law and Grace.

Little Dorrit

Dickens's mystery turns on the words, "Do not forget," and the story's major themes of crippling Law and redemptive Grace hinge on memories lost, stolen, buried, hoarded, recovered, and released.

King Lear

An aging father-king chooses madness over self-knowledge when his viperous daughters, models of his very image and priorities, abuse him in his retirement.

'Til We Have Faces

Orual's selective memory blinds her to herself and hinders her relationships with God and man.

A Tale of Two Cities

Dr. Manette, Madame Defarge, and the other Parisian citizens swear to remember the abuses done them by their social betters; their bitter

unforgiveness devours them, threatening not only those they love, but also the very fabric of society. Only a redemptive act of grace can redeem the memories of the past upon which their present and their futures so dearly depend.