Williams- AP Literature

Unit 2- Culture and Identity Summative Assignment

Critic Roland Barthes has said, "Literature is the question minus the answer." Select four works that we have read during this unit and, considering Barthes' observation, write an extended essay in which you analyze a central question (select one of the unit Essential Questions listed below) that your selected works raise and the extent to which they offer any answers. Explain how each work's treatment of this question affects your understanding of the works as a whole.

1. What is identity?
2. Do individuals create culture or does culture create individuals?
3. How is our sense of who we are determined by whom came before us? How does knowledge of history limit or broaden our potential?
4. What factors could cause individual or group identity to change or remain the same? (for example, from generation to generation)
5. We can be influenced to "identify with" or to "identify against." How has this been manipulated historically?
6. How do personal experiences of history influence perceptions and identity?
7. Is personal identity more important than group identity?
8. Is how we identify ourselves more important than how others identify us?
9. Why do certain events influence identity while others do not?

Expectations:

- Sources must contain at least one full length novel *AND* one poem
- 5-8 pages
- Typed in MLA format with parenthetical citations
- Works Cited page
- Evidence of editing with a minimum of mechanical, spelling, or grammar errors.
- Student-Teacher Conferences (2 dates TBA)
- Uploaded to Turnitin.com
- DUE DATE: _____