O Brother, Where Art Thou? Worksheet

Name:

The purpose of this worksheet is to help you prepare for the short analysis essay of the film O Brother, Where Art Thou? Complete each question completely and turn-in at the end of the film.

1. What are the names of the three main characters of the film?

2. What is the three characters’ quest and how does the Blind Seer establish this quest?

3. What is Everett’s odd obsession? What is his main character flaw (different, but perhaps related to his obsession)?

4. What deal did Tommy make to be able to play guitar?

5. What is the setting for the film (time and place)? What are some elements of the film that establish this setting?

6. Why is Wash’s Boy shooting at people? How is this both a comedic element and part of the setting?

7. How is Pappy O’Daniel and his staff a comedic element and how does their subplot interact with the overall plot of the three main characters?

8. Sheriff Cooley is chasing the Soggy Bottom Boys, but what is the tie-in with Tommy that makes the Sheriff a much more complex character? How is this symbolized whenever we see the Sheriff?

9. Who is the Cyclops and how is he a barrier to the quest?

10. Why does Homer Stokes mistakenly believe that “The color guard is colored” at the KKK rally?

11. What do the others realize is Everett’s real quest? How does this play into the prophecy of the Seer? Why is time such an issue for this quest?

12. What is the conflict between Everett and Penny? How does Penny explain this to everyone, including the Little Wharvey Gals?