

Essay Prompts on Coming-of-Age

Growth Through Conflict

Analyze how the protagonist's personal growth is shaped by a central conflict in the story.

Loss of Innocence

Choose a moment in the text where the protagonist undergoes this transformation. How does it affect the worldview?

Identity and Self-Discovery

Discuss how the protagonist struggles with or discovers their identity throughout the story. What internal and external forces influence this process?

Role of Mentorship

Coming-of-age often involves guidance from a mentor figure. Choose a character who plays a mentor role and examine how they influence the protagonist's development.

Choices and Consequences

How do key choices made by the protagonist reflect their maturity (or lack thereof)? What are the consequences, and how do they shape the character?

Societal Expectations vs. Personal Growth

Analyze how the protagonist navigates societal or cultural expectations during their journey toward adulthood. What compromises or rebellions do they engage in?