

Essay Questions for *The River*

Before doing anything else, read these instructions.

In the following choices, make sure that you answer the main question.

Give sensible explanation, with appropriate examples.

Organize your ideas in a unified and coherent manner.

Include the title and author of the novel you are writing about.

Follow the conventions of standard written English.

Now, read the choices below and follow the general directions for this station.

1. In *The River*, after the storm, Brian realized that Derek was sick. So, Brian began to wait. In a letter to another ninth grader, one who has not yet read the novel, explain why Brian chose to wait.

What do you think Brian was thinking or feeling?

Be sure to refer to actual information from the novel to support your ideas.

2. As you were reading the novel, you must have developed opinions about Brian. For example, did you admire him at any point? Or were you disappointed by any of his decisions? State your opinion of him, and explain:

how did the author's characterization of Brian help you come to that opinion?

Be sure to refer to actual information from the novel to support your ideas.

3. There are a few themes running through *The River*.

Is one of the themes the idea of responsibility for others, of thinking of others?

Use specific information from the novel, and be sure you use your examples to show that the theme of responsibility does or does not appear in this novel.

4. Another theme running through *The River* involves Brian's knowledge.

How did that knowledge lead him to build and float the raft successfully?

Use specific information from the novel, and be sure to use your examples to answer the question.