

Essay Prompts on Relationships

“The complexity of human relationships often drives the central conflict in literature.”

Explore how the dynamics of a central relationship (romantic, familial, or platonic) contribute to the story’s conflict and resolution.

“Power imbalances define many relationships in literature.”

Analyze how power—emotional, social, or political—shapes a relationship between two characters.

“Love in literature is rarely pure or uncomplicated.”

Discuss how a literary text portrays the complications and contradictions of love. Consider how the relationship evolves and what it reveals about the characters.

“Family ties can be both a source of strength and of suffering.”

Explore how familial relationships shape a character’s identity, choices, or downfall in a work of literature.

“Friendship in literature often tests loyalty and moral judgment.”

Analyze how a literary friendship is tested and what that test reveals about each character’s values and priorities.