

Essay Prompts on Genius

Explore the portrayal of genius as both a blessing and a curse in classic literature.
How do authors depict the conflicts genius brings to the individual and society?

Assess how the idea of brilliance or genius is established and evolves in American literature, often described as an “evil genius.”

Compare the portrayal of genius in Romantic poetry versus modernist literature.
How do these literary movements differently approach the theme of extraordinary intellectual or creative power?

Discuss the theme of the “tragedy of the genius” in literature.
How is the genius character torn between moral dilemmas and intellectual achievements?