“That’s Life”
Pre-Seminar Original Questions

Directions: Together with your partner, write 5 original questions you would like to be discussed today. You do NOT have to discuss these questions in a specific order, just use them to guide your discussion.

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION: Write an insightful question about the text that will require proof and group discussion and “construction of logic” to discover or explore the answer to the question. Example: Why did Macbeth hesitate to kill Duncan in the first act, but fail to hesitate before killing Macduff’s family? (from Macbeth)

CLOSE-ENDED QUESTION: Write a question about the texts that will help everyone in the class come to an agreement about events or characters in the text. This question usually has a “correct” answer. Example: What happened to Hester Prynne’s husband that she was left alone in Boston without family? (from The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne)

LITERARY ANALYSIS QUESTION: Write a question dealing with HOW an author chose to compose a literary piece. How did the author manipulate point of view, characterization, poetic form, archetypal hero patterns, for example?

UNIVERSAL THEME / CORE QUESTION: Write a question dealing with a theme (s) of the text that will encourage group discussion about the universality of the text. Example: After reading Macbeth, can you pick out its thematic elements?

WORLD CONNECTION QUESTION: Write a question connecting the text to the real world. Example: If you were given only 24 hours to pack your most precious belongings in a back pack and forced to leave your home, what would you pack? (from Night, by Elie Weisel)