

Name: _____

English 12

Portfolio Prompts

Book and Film Study: *The Body* by Stephen King/*Stand By Me*

Remember to use an engaging opening to lure your reader in, as well as specific details and dialogue when appropriate!

Childhood Friendship

In The Body, King examines the importance of childhood friendship. He suggests that children often choose friends for different reasons than adults. Sometimes children become friends because of proximity (i.e. the neighborhood gang); sometimes children become friends because their parents are friends. Consider your childhood friendships. What drew you to your friends as a child? Are your childhood playmates still your friends? Why or why not? If you drifted apart, why? If not, why not? Write about a specific friendship you had as a child. Use vivid details.

Childhood Legends

The boys in The Body have long believed in the legend of Chopper the dog and his ferocious attacks on particular parts of the anatomy. However, when Gordie sees Chopper for the first time, he is actually disappointed to find that Chopper is not really as frightening as he'd imagined. Write about a childhood legend you recall: a supposedly "haunted" house, a neighbor rumored to eat small children, a place that you weren't supposed to go after dark, etc. How did you first hear the legend? How did it make you feel? Do you still believe it? Why or why not?

Rites of Passage

For the boys in The Body/Stand By Me, seeing their first dead body is a rite of passage into adulthood. Recall an experience from your childhood or adolescence that was a "rite of passage" for you. It need not be something traumatic, but rather, an important "first": first date, first time you traveled alone, first time you drove a car, etc. What happened and why did it hold significance?

Revenge

Chapter 16 of The Body describes David Hogan's ultimate revenge for childhood taunting. Write about a time in your life in which you sought revenge or had revenge sought against you. What is it about human nature that contributes to the desire for revenge? Can revenge be truly gratifying or does it leave you feeling empty? Explain.