**Brighton Rock Reading Guide Part One**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Meyer English III

Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter One:

1/ Who do these epithets refer to, and what do they say about each character?

a/ ‘inky fingers and his bitten nails’

b/ ‘a rich Guinness voice’

c/ ‘grey inhuman seventeen-year-old eyes’

2/ ‘It was a good paper to be on…Sheffield’ (p.7). This hints at an aspect of Graham Greene himself. What autobiographical point does it make?

3/ What kind of place is ‘the terrace of the Grand’ (p.9)? How do the people and the place help form the readers’ idea of Greeneland?

4/ What small hint does Graham Greene put into the narrative to build an atmosphere and a mood suitable to the crime novel (p.10)?

5/ According to you why does the author omit to give his hero a name for the first chapter, and simply calls him ‘the boy’? Does this keep within the crime novel genre? Whether you agree or disagree explain your answer.

6/In a few words sum up Ida’s characterization: ‘ She smelt of soap…”fun to be alive” ’(p.14-15)

7/ End of chapter one ends with a time of day. What other detail of the ‘crime’ story appears here? What does it signify? Does it have a role of foreshadowing?

Chapter two

8/ What aspect of the narration supports Graham Greene’s claim that he writes using Catholicism as part of the fabric of his writing rather than an end unto itself (p. 20-21)?

9/ After the crime, the narrator makes a point that while the other gang members eat with Pinkie, Spencer is too nauseated to eat fried fish. What do you think the purpose of this detail is for his characterization and by implication that of Pinkie?

10/ What is there in the boy’s language and the reaction of the other men that implies that he is gang leader? Show with examples.

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11/ Explain the meaning of the following gang jargon:

a/ polony

b/ tart

c/ mob

12/ Do you think Pinkie and Rose are characterized together? If so what are their common characteristics? What does it do for the novel? Does anybody stand obviously at the other end of the spectrum to them? Give reasons for your choice (p.26-27).