

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pigman Personality Profile & Argumentative Writing Practice**

“Write the names of the characters in the order in which you think they are most responsible for the wife’s death.”

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (most responsible)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (least responsible)

**Claim:** The character most responsible for the wife’s death is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Textual Evidence** (Quotes and/or Summaries): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reasoning:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*If any of the characters had not done what they did, the murder would not have occurred; therefore, there are many potential counterclaims. Address the ones that are most understandable to you.*

**Counterclaim(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Offer rebuttals that explain why the character you selected is MORE responsible than the others.*

**Rebuttal(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Conclusion:** \_\_\_\_\_

*John's Example*

The Boatman is most responsible for the wife's death. According to the story, he refused to take her across the river because she could not pay him fifty cents. This shows that the Boatman values money more than he values human life, and the sanctity of human life has been supported not only in most religious texts but also in our laws. Of course, a businessman has to make money to survive, but when a desperate woman pleads with you to help her and you turn your back on her for the sake of a measly fifty cents, you prove yourself an immoral fiend. The story says that the boatman was the last person the wife approached for help, and by then she "was nearly out of her mind" with fear. Most of us would agree that a person's life is worth more than fifty cents, and most reasonable people would be willing to help such a woman. A person who knew the seriousness of the situation as the boatman did and still refused to help should be punished. Some might say that the wife deserved what she got because she was fooling around on her husband, but not only is death an extreme punishment for her "crime," it is not the place of a guy giving boat rides to make that judgment. This is why we have laws, courtrooms, and judges, and no reasonable person would want to have his fate decided by a character like the boatman, someone who values money above human life. Because he refused to help when a decent citizen would have, the Boatman is the most responsible for the wife's death.