

Pygmalion

Journal Entries

As you read *Pygmalion*, it is important to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what you read and how what you read impacts you. In a marble notebook, you are required to respond to the writing prompts. Before you read *Pygmalion*, you must read the story of the sculptor Pygmalion in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and respond to the writing prompt. This will be the first entry in your journal. For each of the five acts, you will be expected to respond to the prompts as you are reading. The purpose of the writing prompts is to encourage you to pause and think about what you are reading.

Pre-Reading

Entry #1 – Who is responsible for Galatea's "awakening", Pygmalion or Aphrodite? Since he is her creator, is Pygmalion's love for Galatea indicative of obsession? To what extent is his love ethical?

Entry #2 – Is education a right or a privilege? Is there a time when we have the right to block an education?

Entry #3 – To what extent does money equal social class in America? Can you think of anyone who has money but lacks "class"?

Act I

When Freddy, in his haste, runs into the Flower Girl, there is a blinding flash of light and a huge peal of thunder. These effects are intended to draw attention to the encounter. Consider the reasons why Shaw wanted to highlight this moment in such a dramatic way. After drawing your conclusion, write a letter to Shaw in which you explain your theory.

Act II

Pretend you are Mrs. Pearce in Act Two. Explain to Eliza why she is stepping beyond her proper place in approaching Professor Higgins.

Act III

Although his mother thinks that Henry should have a young girlfriend, he refuses to even consider it. He says that his idea of a "loveable woman" is his mother. As Mrs. Higgins, write a letter to an advice columnist, asking how to get your adult son to start dating. Then, as the advice columnist, write a response to Mrs. Higgins' letter.

Act IV

As Act IV opens with Higgins, Pickering and Eliza returning from the Embassy Ball, consider what Higgins and Pickering have to say now that the experiment is over. Why does Higgins' exclamation, "Thank God it is over" hurt Eliza? How does this contribute to Eliza's extreme emotional response?

Act V

It has been said that *Pygmalion* is not a play about turning a flower girl into a duchess, but one about turning a woman into a human being. Do you agree? Explain

Post-Reading

Is Higgins a fairy godmother or a mad scientist? Explain

Choose a character and analyze their personal strengths and weaknesses. From where do they stem? How do they impact the choices he/she makes?

Pick a quotation or passage from each act that addresses one of the themes of the play. Discuss its significance.