

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**SCORE/GRADE:**

**BIBLIOSCOPIC DIALOGUE:** Various stories

Read and discuss a series of literary works selected by your teacher to address the idea of *memory*. On the lines below, summarize the *specific themes* of each title in a few sentences. Your sentences should demonstrate the distinct ways that each title addresses the universal idea.

### *The Scarlet Letter*

Hawthorne's "Custom House" suggests that acquaintance with our ancestors is the key to our present self-knowledge; his historical novel reveals universal truths of man's depravity and subsequent dependence upon divine Law and Grace.

### *Little Dorrit*

Dickens's mystery turns on the words, "Do not forget," and the story's major themes of crippling Law and redemptive Grace hinge on memories lost, stolen, buried, hoarded, recovered, and released.

### *King Lear*

An aging father-king chooses madness over self-knowledge when his viperous daughters, models of his very image and priorities, abuse him in his retirement.

### *'Til We Have Faces*

Orual's selective memory blinds her to herself and hinders her relationships with God and man.

### *A Tale of Two Cities*

Dr. Manette, Madame Defarge, and the other Parisian citizens swear to remember the abuses done them by their social betters; their bitter

unforgiveness devours them, threatening not only those they love, but also the very fabric of society. Only a redemptive act of grace can redeem the memories of the past upon which their present and their futures so dearly depend.