

English 2B

“The Pit and the Pendulum” Writing assignment

Choose one of the following topics about “The Pit and the Pendulum” and write a minimum of three paragraphs. Use evidence and details from the book to support your opinions.

1. Many short story writers in America in the nineteenth century said that they wanted to write a story that seemed like a dream or a nightmare. Show how "The Pit and the Pendulum" is such a story.
2. There is only one character in this story, and all we know about him directly is that he is caught in a horrifying dilemma. Describe what we can infer about his personality from his behavior; discuss how he attempts to cope with his situation.
3. How would you characterize the kinds of fears and anxieties that the protagonist faces? In what ways are they like fears and anxieties that all of us have?