

Essays on Thomas Hardy's *Mayor of Casterbridge*

Choose 2---Use *quotes* to support

- A. Using Aristotle's definition of a tragic hero, discuss Michael Henchard as such a character. Use specific details and plot events to support your ideas.
- B. Discuss the novel as a commentary on social conventions of the time. Discuss Hardy's views on marriage and social propriety (properness). Discuss specific characters and events that support your views.
- C. Discuss the use of the minor characters such as the patrons of The Three Mariners and the rustics as Hardy's equivalent to the Greek chorus. Give at least two examples of how these characters function in that capacity.
- D. Explain how *The Mayor of Casterbridge* can be characterized as a realistic or a naturalistic novel. Use specific details and plot events that support your thesis.
- E. Explain how Hardy's diction, syntax, and tone help to convey Hardy's themes in the novel.