

***Slaughterhouse Five* Essay Prompts**  
**Focus: Compare and Contrast**

**Option 1**

Read the following poem about World War I and compose a well-organized essay in which you compare the poem with *Slaughterhouse 5* (this should be established in your thesis). Be sure to provide the following:

1. an in-depth analysis of the poem
2. supporting evidence or specific examples from the novel

An Irish Airman Foresees His Death  
William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

I know that I shall meet my fate  
Somewhere among the clouds above;  
Those that I fight I do not hate  
Those that I guard I do not love;  
My country is Kiltartan Cross,  
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,  
No likely end could bring them loss  
Or leave them happier than before.  
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,  
Nor public man, nor cheering crowds,  
A lonely impulse of delight  
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;  
I balanced all, brought all to mind,  
The years to come seemed waste of breath,  
A waste of breath the years behind  
In balance with this life, this death.

**Option 2**

Many plays and novels use **contrasting places** (for example: two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to **represent opposed forces or ideas** that are central to the meaning of the work. *Slaughterhouse Five* contrasts two planets: **Earth and Tralfamadore**. Write an essay in which you explain **how the places differ, what each place represents, and how the contrast contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole**.

## **Organization Suggestion**

**Paragraph 1:** An economical opening: name the work(s) and author(s); name the two places/pieces you are contrasting; write thesis explicitly stating specific comparison **and how it adds meaning to our understanding of the text(s).**

**Paragraph 2: Comparison 1** – Establish direct comparison in topic sentence and provide supporting evidence from the text(s) for both Earth/Trafalmadore or poem/novel.

**Paragraph 3: Comparison 2** - Establish direct comparison in topic sentence and provide supporting evidence from the text(s) for both Earth/Trafalmadore or poem/novel.

**Paragraph 4: Comparison 3** - Establish direct comparison (or contrast, here, if you choose to have one) in topic sentence and provide supporting evidence from the text(s) for both Earth/Trafalmadore or poem/novel.

**Paragraph 5:** Revisit your thesis and assert your general response as strongly and memorably as possible, with a “mic drop” concluding statement that leaves your reader’s jaw on the floor.