**What’s Eating Gilbert Grape**-Film Study: Choose 5 of the following questions to answer while watching the movie for a Film Study for extra credit.

\*Describe one of the themes of this movie. What message are the filmmakers trying to send to the audience?
\*What role does chance play in the story and how does that affect its theme?
\*The movie opens with a scene showing an empty vista. What does this express?
\*Loneliness is one of the problems exemplified in the film. In which characters do you see it most clearly and what may be the problems loneliness creates?
\*Sometimes in literature a writer uses the character of a child to enunciate theme. The character of Arnie has the maturity of a young child and makes two statements which strongly relate to theme. What are they and how do they relate to theme?
\*In this story, who is the protagonist and who is the antagonist?
\*The adult characters who live in Endora and figure in Gilbert's life are his mother, the owner of the grocery store where Gilbert works, Mrs. Carver and her husband. They all have something in common. What is it? Explain your answer.
\*Gilbert has two friends in town who are roughly his age. What do they have in common with the adults in the town? What are the filmmakers trying to tell us by presenting these characters as the people who are important to Gilbert's universe?

\*Given the fact that Gilbert will take Arnie with him wherever he goes; do you see any future in Gilbert's relationship with any other woman?  Explain your answer.
\*What does the name of the town tell the viewer about the place in which Gilbert lives?
\*Describe a symbol that is used in the story. Why is it important?

\*Gilbert says to Arnie, "Match in the gas tank: Boom, Boom!" and Arnie comes down from the water tank. How do a match and a gas tank figure in the end of the story?

\*Evaluate Gilbert's mother as a parent.