**PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Answer each question below from the perspective of one of your novel’s characters.**

**Do this for each character in your novel until you understand each + every motive behind emotion + action within your plot.**

[Fun Fact: Marcel Proust, a French essayist + novelist, believed that by answering this series of questions an individual would reveal her or his true nature. Although not invented by Proust himself, Proust popularized this parlor game of intimate questioning during the early 1900’s. I wonder if he ever considered that future novelists might use his game as a tool for more deeply learning about their characters?]

1. What is your idea of perfect happiness?

2. What is your greatest fear?

3. What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

4. What is the trait you most deplore in others?

5. Which living person do you most admire?

6. What is your greatest extravagance?

7. What is your current state of mind?

8. What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

9. On what occasion do you lie?

10. What do you most dislike about your appearance?

11. Which living person do you most despise?

12. What is the quality you most like in a man?

13. What is the quality you most like in a woman?

14. Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

15. What or who is the greatest love of your life?

16. When + where were you happiest?

17. Which talent would you most like to have?

18. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

19. What do you consider your greatest achievement?

20. If you were to die + come back as a person or a thing, who or what would you be?

21. Where would you most like to live?

22. What is your most treasured possession?

23. What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?

24. What is your favorite occupation?

25. What is your most marked characteristic?

26. What do you most value in your friends?

27. Who are your favorite writers?

28. Who is your hero of fiction?

29. Which historical figure do you most identify with?

30. Who are you heroes in real life?

31. What are your favorite names?

32. What is it that you most dislike?

33. What is your greatest regret?

34. How would you like to die?

35. What is your motto?

