***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* Socratic Seminar Questions**(50 test points)

*Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer 5 of the following questions in 3-5 sentences per question. When possible, please cite examples from the book. These questions are due immediately after the Socratic Seminar, which will act as part of your final grade for this unit.*

1. Discuss the epistolary format of the book. Why do you think Chbosky chose to use letters as his narrative structure? How does this structure affect the book, both in terms of the story and in terms of your reading experience? How would the book have been different if Chbosky had written it in first-person or third-person narrative?
2. Who do you think Charlie was writing to? Does it ultimately matter whom, or even if he is, writing to someone? Why or why not?
3. Who did you identify with the most? Did you see parts of yourself in any one specific character?
4. What do you think kept Charlie from “participating” when he entered high school? What held him back?
5. Who is Charlie’s greatest ally? Who is his worst influence?
6. Sam confronts Charlie before she leaves for college, pleading: “You can’t just sit there and put everybody’s lives ahead of yours and think that counts as love. You just can’t. You have to do things” (200). Do you agree with Sam? How does this exchange relate to their relationship on a grander scale?
7. Discuss Aunt Helen’s character and presence in the novel. Were you surprised when the truth about her relationship with Charlie was revealed? In what other ways did seemingly positive aspects of Charlie’s life turn out to be negative?
8. After watching an art film with Mary Elizabeth Charlie says: “The movie itself was very interesting, but I didn’t think it was very good because I didn’t really feel different when it was over” (124). Do you agree with Charlie when he says that, in order to be “good,” creative works must make you feel differently? How did you feel after reading *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*?
9. Discuss the following passage: “Maybe it’s good to put things in perspective. Sometimes, I think that the only perspective is to really be there” (213). How has Charlie’s outlook shifted from the beginning of the story?
10. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* grapples with a complex, universally difficult stage of life. What reflections did it inspire about your own life? What parts of the story resonated most deeply with you?