Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dead Poets Society**

Respond: What are some of the things teachers have done in the past that has excited you about learning?

**Vocabulary:** Preparatory School or Prep School; Carpe Diem; cynic; realist;unfettered; Rembrandt, Mozart, Shakespeare

**Chapter 1: beginning of movie until 4:24)** – Entrance to Ivy League; excrement; sustain

1. What are the 4 Pillars of Welton? What can you infer about what type of education Welton values?

**Chapter 2: Pedagogical practices (10:09-17:01)**

1. Compare the approaches to teaching. What differences do you see? Which approach do you think would help you to get the best grade? Which one would help you learn the most? Why?
2. What does Mr. Keating do to build relationships with his students?
3. Do most students think that they are destined for great things, invincible, full of hope? Carpe Diem? Make your lives extraordinary? Why or why not?
4. Camron asks if they think they will be tested on any of that stuff. What is Camron concerned with?

**Chapter 3: Trusting your instincts; thinking for yourself**

1. Why does Mr. Keating instruct his students to rip out the introductory pages of their poetry texts?
2. Why does Mr. Keating claim “this is a battle…a war”? Who is fighting the battle? Who is the opponent? What are they fighting for?
3. Do you believe Mr. Keating when he states “words and ideas can change the world”?
4. In the quote, “*We don’t read and write poetry because it’s cute. We read and write poetry because we are* *members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law,* *business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty,* *romance, love, these are what we stay alive for,” w*hat does he mean when he distinguishes between pursuits that sustain life and those that give us reason to live? What’s the difference?
5. What is the “power play” a metaphor for and what does he mean when he states, “And you may contribute a verse?”

**Chapter 3 (cont.) Pressure from the establishment to conform:**

1. Mr. Keating believes he is teaching his students to be free thinkers as opposed to artist. Do you believe you can be a ‘free thinker at 17?” Do you believe the education system is interested in developing free thinkers or those who just follow instructions?
2. “Show me the heart unfettered by foolish dreams and I will show you a happy man.” `Tennyson What does McCallister mean by this? Do you agree or disagree?

**Chapter 5: Creativity – the power of looking at things in a different way (42:59-44:05)**

1. Consider the words of Mr. Keating, “*I stand upon my desk to remind myself that we must constantly look at things a different way. The world looks very different up here . . . Just when you think you think you know something you have to look at it in another way . . . When you read, don’t just consider what the author thinks, you must consider what you think.* What is the power in these words? Consider the varied reactions of the different students.
2. “You must strive to find your own voice. The longer you wait, the less likely you are to find it at all.” What is Mr. Keating warning his students about?”

**Chapter 6 What non-core classes teach: The importance of athletics, arts, etc. in learning**

1. Why does Keating take the boys out to read lines of poetry while kicking soccer balls, with classical music playing in the background? What is the purpose of this lesson?
2. Keating says, “For me, sport is actually a chance for us to have other human beings push us to excel.” What does this quote have to do with the activity?

**Homework:**

Q or Q: “Most men lead lives of quiet desperation?” ~ Henry David Thoreau. In the movie Mr. Keating uses this quote to warn his students. What is he asking them to do? Also, when he asks them what verse they will contribute, think about what your verse will be and why…