

Name: _____

Period: _____

***Dead Poets Society* Film Questions**

Main Characters: Mr. John Keating, Neil Perry, Todd Anderson, Charlie Dalton, Knox Overstreet, Steven Meeks, Gerard Pitts, & Richard Cameron.

Directions: Answer all questions using complete sentences.

1. What is the school like? In contrast to the school, how does Mr. Keating enter the English classroom on the first day?
2. What is the poem title that Mr. Keating introduces himself with? Who wrote it?
3. What is the Latin phrase Mr. Keating quotes? What is its literal translation?
4. According to Pitts, all of the girls go for “jerks”. Do you agree with his assessment? Why or why not?
5. Why does Mr. Keating consider the “Understanding Poetry” introduction to be excrement? What does he have the students do?
6. According to Keating, what is the “powerful play”? What is the “verse” which we may contribute?
7. At the opening of the Dead Poets Society, an excerpt is read from an essay written by what Transcendentalist author? Paraphrase its meaning.

Name: _____

Period: _____

8. John Keating says he stands on his desk “to remind myself that we must constantly look at things in a different way,” and tells his students, “just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in a different way – even though it may seem silly or wrong, you must try it.” How does this apply to academics and life?

9. What is one of the major themes in poetry and in life that Knox displays in his poem?

10. Todd’s “poem” that he creates for the class is incredible. What does Keating say to him after he is finished? Why?

11. What is the point of Mr. Keating having the boys walk around in the courtyard?

12. What do the last three lines from Robert Frost’s poem that Keating recites mean?

13. What gift does Todd get for his birthday? What does this show about his relationship with his parents?

14. What does Charlie submit to the school newspaper? What is the school’s reaction?

