A Mercy, Timed Essay Topics

A. Write a character analysis of any of the main character in the novel (Jacob Vaark, Rebekka Vaark, Lina, Florens, Sorrow, Florens’ mother, the blacksmith). In your analysis, you might discuss how the characters evolve from start to finish, or you might discuss which character trait(s) dominate their personalities and how their personalities tie in with the larger themes and the story overall.

B. Choose one theme from the book to analyze/discuss. In your analysis, find specific examples from the book that develop that particular theme.
   1. Women’s power and independence and their refusal to be victims of circumstance
   2. The significance of literacy in this world
   3. Slavery and Freedom, and how the two concepts are relevant for all people, not just slaves
   4. The different forms of love—mother/child, of friends, between women, between men, romantic love, self-love, etc.
   5. Acts of Mercy—both large and small— and the necessity of mercy in a well-balanced world