Batman Year One Study Questions
Name______________________________

Before Reading
Briefly explain what you know or think you know about Batman.

React to the first illustration after the introduction. Why might the authors choose to begin the novel with this illustration?

Review the aspects of an epic hero. From what you know or think you know of Batman, how is he like an Epic hero?
Name: 

Chapter One  
1. What is happening in the drawing on the chapter one title page? What mood and questions does it leave you with as a reader? 

2. Describe the setting of the story. Is this a place that you would like to live? 

3. Who is James Gordon, and what do we learn about him in chapter one? 

4. What information are we given regarding Bruce Wayne? 

5. Who is Alfred? 

6. Describe the Gotham City police. 

7. Why is Lieutenant Gordon beat up? 

8. How does Bruce Wayne draw attention to himself in the East End? 

9. What happens between Bruce Wayne and the police? 

10. What does Gordon do to Flass? 

11. Describe Bruce Wayne’s conflict. 

12. At the end of chapter one, we are introduced to Batman. Why does Bruce Wayne choose to take on the form of a bat? What significance is there in him becoming a bat? 

13.
Chapter Two
1. Describe the situation at the beginning of chapter two.

2. Why is Gordon concerned about Branden?

3. How does Gordon take control of the situation?

4. How does Branden react to the events of April 4th?

5. How does Commissioner Loeb feel about Gordon?

6. Why does Gordon feel guilty?

7. Batman stops a robbery. What do you notice about his fighting style?

8. What is a vigilante?

9. What information do the police have on Batman? What do they know about his habits?

10. How is the idea of corruption shown at the governor’s mansion?

11. How do they try to trap Batman on June 2nd?

12. What does Batman do to The Roman?

13. Who is Dent? Why is he a possible suspect for being Batman? What doubts does Gordon have about Dent being Batman?

14. Why does Essen bring up Bruce Wayne?
15. Why does Gordon not want Branden to pursue Batman?

16. What does Branden do?

17. What do you learn from the last image of chapter two?
Name: 

Chapter Three

1. What predictions do you have at this point?

2. Who is Selina? What is her role in the plot so far?

3. How is Batman able to elude Branden?

4. What is Bruce Wayne’s alibi?

5. What does Bruce Wayne decide about Gordon?

6. What twist is there in the relationship between Gordon and Essen? How do you feel about Gordon at this point?

7. What costume does Selina put on?

8. What significance is there in the quote, “the hunk of metal in my hands is heavier than ever…”?
Name: _________________________________

Chapter Four

1. What predictions do you have based on the title of the chapter “Friend in Need”? 

2. What does Gordon realize about his feelings for Essen?

3. Who is released on bail? Why does Batman visit him?

4. Flass is implicated on drug charges. How does Commissioner Loeb react?

5. Gordon and his wife visit Bruce Wayne. How does Bruce Wayne act while they are there?

6. What does Gordon confess to his wife on the drive home from Wayne Manor?

7. What does Flass say about Skeever’s testimony?

8. What happens to Skeever?

9. Who is responsible for the burglary at the Commissioner’s house?

10. Why is Selina angry?

11. Why was Batman at The Roman’s mansion?

12. How does Catwoman try to differentiate herself from Batman in the attack on The Roman?

13. Who sets up Gordon? What do the men do with Mrs. Gordon and the baby?
14. Who saves the baby?

15. What does Gordon say to Bruce Wayne?

16. How did Flass surprise everyone?

17. Which villain is introduced on page 96?

18. Explain the significance of the final illustration.

The Hero
How does Lieutenant Gordon show himself to be a hero?

Answer true or false for each of the following statements regarding Batman. Then provide an explanation for your ideas on the provided lines.

1. True or False      Heroes are often obscure or mysterious in origin.

2. True or False      Heroes are neither fools nor invincible.

3. True or False      Heroes are called upon to make a journey or to follow a goal or a quest.
4. True or False  The heroes’ ways are beset with dangers, loneliness, and temptation.

5. True or False  Many tales supply friends, servants, or disciples as company for heroes.

6. True or False  Heroes have guides.

7. True or False  Heroes descend into darkness and are not the same after emerging from the darkness.

8. True or False  What heroes seek is usually no more than a symbol of what they really find.

Based on your responses to 1-8, explain how Batman is an example of a modern day epic hero.