

Name: _____

Date: _____

Thinking Questions: *Life, Animated*

DIRECTIONS: In class on Monday, we will discuss the following questions. Prepare for that discussion by keeping notes that will help you answer to each question. I will collect these notes, and grade them. However, no other students in class will read your responses (we will merely discuss them, and you may or may not share answers, depending upon your level of comfort).

1. After meeting with his communication therapist about building conversations with his girlfriend, the therapist speaks with his mother. The therapist asks Mom, "What do you think Owen's contributions are to his community, to his family?" In response, Owen's mom describes a conversation she and her husband had, wherein he poses the question. She asks, "So who decides what a meaningful life is?" How do you define a meaningful life? What's the criteria for such a life (in your view).
2. Owen describes being asked to leave school: "That year was a glop...a really rough, down year." Later, when bullies threaten to hunt him down and burn his house, he says, "I fell into darkness and walked the halls of fear." Describe something that you fear. That can be something real or imagined.
3. At his 26th birthday, Owen's brother Walter talks about the responsibility he feels for caring for Owen and his parents as they get older. Walter says, "[Living alone] was like a new breath of freedom," but later describes his sense of responsibility, saying, "It will be just me, and I'll be ready. I've been getting ready my whole life. It can be kind of overwhelming to think about. ... It can keep you up at night." Describe a responsibility that keeps you up at night.

