Adv. English 1

Our Town Reading Prompts/Notes 2 –

Our Town, Act 1, Part Two: From the introduction of Professor Willard to the end of the Act

1. Why do you think Wilder has the stage manager interrupt Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gibbs to introduce Professor Willard's brief history of Grover's Corners? What is the focus of Willard's lecture? How does it relate to the previous scene?

2. Examine the first scene between George and Emily (28-31). How does Wilder develop their relationship? Do they seem compatible? Explain your answer, citing specific details from the text.

3. What do you think Emily means when she tells her mother, "you never tell the truth about anything"(31)

4. What purpose does the Stage Manager say he hopes that the play will serve? What does this suggest about Wilder's purpose in writing Our Town?

5. Summarize the conversation between George and Rebecca at the end of Act One. Why do you think Wilder chooses to end the first act with these lines? How are they thematically significant?