Jonathan Edwards, Puritan Minister Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Written Responses Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **1.** | Find the direct statement in which Edwards sets forth the **purpose** of his sermon. |
| **2.** | According to the sermon, what keeps sinners out of the fiery “pit of hell”? |
| **3.** | Identify the three famous **figures of** **speech** that Edwards develops in the fourth through seventh paragraphs. What things is he comparing in each one? |

4. What references in the sermon reveal Edwards’s implicit philosophical beliefs about divine mercy?

5. What **images** and **figures of speech** might have helped Edwards’s listeners to *feel* the peril of their sinful condition?

6. Edwards struck fear into the hearts of his listeners in order to persuade them to act to avoid everlasting torment. Which specific **metaphors** and **similes** in the sermon were probably the most persuasive?

7. At the end of his sermon, what do you think Edwards means when he says that the “door of mercy” is wide open? What effect might this hope of God’s mercy have had on his listeners?

Choose ONE of the remaining three questions to answer ON YOUR OWN PAPER. Organize your thoughts and then respond in paragraph form.

8. If you had a chance to respond to Edwards, what would you say? On what

points do you agree or disagree? Explain or defend your ideas.

9. Many people would agree that fear is one of the most powerful motivators of human behavior. Fear of injury makes us buckle our seat belts. Fear of failure makes us study or work harder. Edwards and other pastors used harsh warnings in their sermons to make “sinners” understand the precariousness of their situation by actually *feeling* the fear and horror of their sinful state **What do you think of the use of fear as a motivator? What motivation might work better than fear?  Take a few moments to write about what motivates you and whether (or when) you would use fear to motivate someone else.**

10. Edwards believed that fear was a great motivator, yet many philosophers and politicians have disagreed. For example, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in his first inaugural address, made this famous comment about fear: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” **Analyze and** **respond to Roosevelt’s words.**